

MOUNTAIN HIGH HIKERS CALENDAR

Fall 2017

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| Oct. 3 9 AM B3 | <p>Gooch Gap north to Justus Creek. Break at Gooch Shelter. 6 miles. Meeting: Choestoe Church on Hwy 180. Ginny Smith 706-258-8716</p> |
| Oct. 3 9 AM C4 | <p>Byron Reece Parking Area to Bird Gap. Start at Byron Reece parking area, hike over Blood Mountain to Bird Gap (possibly to Woods Hole Shelter for lunch). Return on the Freeman Trail. Rough, rocky footing expected on Freeman Trail. 7.5 miles Meeting: Choestoe Baptist church on Hwy 180. Steve Dennison 706-299-6825</p> |
| Oct. 5 9 AM B3 | <p>Leisure Hike - Springer Mountain Parking Lot to Black Mountain Shelter and Return - This 5.0-mile trek has two moderate climbs on either side of the Springer Mountain of a little under 400 feet stretched each way over a slow grade. Featured are the views each way from the Springer Mountain summit, and two shelters. A little side trip in and out on the BMT features the monument plaque to Benton MacKaye, father of the Appalachian Trail and namesake for the BMT. Meeting: Blairsville Park and Ride at 9 or Springer parking lot at 9:45. Virginia Lane 706-745-8058</p> |
| Oct. 5 9 AM | <p>NC Trail Maintenance Day Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</p> |
| Oct. 9 12 Noon Monday | <p>Covered Dish Picnic / Business Meeting at Tom & Betty Rose Shope Pavilion, Blairsville. Bring a covered dish for 8. For info & Directions call : Candy Retter 706-835-1344 or cfretter4@gmail.com</p> |
| Oct. 10 9 AM B3 | <p>Cohuttas: Gahutti Trail loop at Fort Mtn. State Park. Start at park entrance Gahutti to Goldmine Trail to Lake Trail to Rock Trail and back on Gahutti Trail, 5.3 mile. Variety of terrain, minor stream crossings, great views. Meeting: Ellijay Food Lion Carolyn & Tom Sewell 706-669-4916</p> |
| Oct. 10 9 AM D3 | <p>Smith Creek Trail from Unicoi State Park to Ana Ruby Falls and return. A moderate 9 mile hike with lunch at the falls. Meeting: Unicoi Gap on Hwy 75 south of Hiawassee. Ginny Smith 706-258-8716</p> |
| Oct. 12 9 AM B1 | <p>Leisure Hike - Benton MacKaye Trail, Ocoee Whitewater - Another easy walk! Start high on the BMT at FS Rd. 221 in TN, and walk downhill 3.4 miles to Tumbling Rock Campground. Then pass TVA powerhouse #3 to continue over a mile on the roaring Ocoee riverside Rhododendron Trail to the picnic area for lunch - be sure to bring your own. Very short shuttle & federal pass required to some vehicles. Meeting: Ducktown Piggly Wiggly 9:00. Ken Cissna 813-310-6084</p> |
| Oct. 12 9 AM | <p>NC Trail Maintenance Day Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</p> |
| Oct.17 9 AM C3 | <p>Fall Branch Falls parking lot on BMT to junction with Stanley Gap trail at Weaver Creek section and return. No shuttle. 6.4 miles. Meeting: Food Lion in Blue Ridge Ken Cissna 813-310-6084</p> |
| Oct.17 8 AM D3 | <p>Rabun Bald. Hike on the Bartram Trail from Hale Ridge road to summit of Rabun Bald and return the same way. Approx. 9 miles. Moderate hike. Plan on dinner in Clayton afterwards? Meeting: Macedonia Baptist Church east of Hiawassee Jerry Carnes, rockkicker48@gmail.com</p> |
| Oct. 19 9AM B2 | <p>Leisure Hike - Trails of Amicalola Falls State Park - This was a very successful first-time leisure hike several months ago - up now for a repeat. Hike the east and west ridge trails and first 0.9 mi. out and back in of the Hike Inn Trail. Lunch at the park lodge. State park pass required. Meeting: Food Lion in Blue Ridge at 9:00 or join the Hike Leader at Amicalola Falls SP visitor's center at 9:35. Laurie Colombo 530-295-7639</p> |
| Oct. 19 9 AM | <p>Georgia Trail Maintenance Day. Meeting: Blairsville Park and Ride Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</p> |
| Oct.24 9 AM B3 | <p>Benton MacKaye Trail, Section 15 near Coker Creek, TN. Moderate 4.2 miles in and out, from Sandy Gap NC to Sixmile Gap, with the optional side trip up Waucheesi Mountain. The side trip will add @ 1.5 miles but includes GREAT 360° views. The main trail walks the ridge along the TN/NC line, with beautiful views in the winter, and a stone state line marker engraved in the 1821 state line survey. Total: 5.7 mi. Meeting: Piggly Wiggly in Ducktown Linda & Bob Kaempfer 828-644-5836</p> |

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| Oct.24 9 AM E4 | Unicoi Gap to Tray Mt. on the AT with return on the Rocky Mt. Tr. A 10 mi. strenuous hike. 2400 ft. elevation gain. Great views from Tray Mt. Note: Text or call the hike leader if you plan attend. Carpool at 9:00 or meet the hike leader at the trailhead at 9:20. Meeting: Macedonia Baptist Church parking lot east of Hiawassee Stephen Gales 864-276-4763 (cell text preferred) or lightfoot2000@hotmail.com |
| Oct. 26 9 AM B2 | Leisure Hike - NEW! - Fall Color Glory Trip: Ride & Stop-and-Go Short Hikes, Southern Nantahala's - This special event ride has been a favorite of the leader for 45 years, but is new to our leisure hikes. LIMITED TO 16 PEOPLE TOTAL IN FOUR VEHICLES - MUST PREREGISTER WITH LEADER VIA EMAIL OR HIS HOME PHONE. It features a slow-paced driving trip on the "FALL GLORY ROAD" of Forest Service Road 83 between Wallace Gap and U.S. 441 at Otto. Trip is a slow drive drinking in the (hopefully) peak of fall color with stops to trek to two nearby waterfalls and an in-and-out hike of a bit over two miles (longest hike & high) to two awesome vistas atop Picken's Nose. Autumn color nuts like leader especially solicited! Late lunch afterwards at a neat restaurant. Meet-up arrangements only through contact with leader. George Owen at gowen2@tds.net (preferably) or by phone at 706-374.4716 |
| Oct. 26 9 AM | NC Trail Maintenance Day Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167 |
| Oct. 31 9 AM B2 | Cautiously hike on the dark and gloomy BMT to Long Creek Falls , pondering the countless numbers of ill-fated travelers who have lost their way on this short stretch. After staring spellbound at the falls, examine the haunting markings on boulders, gasp at the unearthly mill ring fire pit on site before creeping upwards on the AT. Our destination is an ancient Appalachian burial site; marvel at the mysterious structures that loom eerily throughout the area. This is where we will eat, drink and be scary. Total miles 4+, more if you lose your way on the frightening Duncan Ridge Trail. All Hallows Eve - where there is no imagination, there is no horror. Meeting: Blairsville Park/Ride Hike leader: the witchy Pam Sullivan 706-374-5281 |
| Oct. 31 9 AM C3 | Classic Fall Hike: Winding Stair Gap to Siler Bald and return. Approx. 9 miles. Peak Color. Slower paced. Meeting: Ingles Parking lot in Hayesville Marjorie Hornsby 828-415-1530 |
| Nov. 2 9 AM C3 | Leisure Hike - NEW: Three Forks East Loop Using AT, BMT - This trip features a lovely waterfall, mountaintop meadow, and a crazy merry-go-round! First it's up the combined AT/BMT for a mile to beautiful Long Creek Falls. Next we travel rather flat along the BMT for over a half-mile beside a tumbling stream, then have the only significant climb of several hundred feet (we take it slow) to the meadow view atop Mt. David Sherman. From the meadow we turn 90 degrees right and follow the faint mowing road out to little-used FS 251, little used, which we walk about two miles to Hickory Flats Cemetery. There a huge (and fast!) crazy merry-go-round awaits the venturous. (If you don't wish to risk your life, don't let the leisure hikes coordinator propel it for you!) Then we pick up the nearby AT and follow it back to the joint trail with BMT and out to Three Forks. (NOTE: At something over 6 miles, this is a bit longer than most leisure hikes - plan not to be out before mid-afternoon.) Meeting: Blairsville Park & Ride at 9:00 or Three Forks at 9:40. Mike Pilvinsky 706-273-2086 |
| NOV. 2 9 AM | NC Trail Maintenance Day Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167 |
| Nov.7 9 AM B2 | Flat Creek Loop in Fannin County. This 5.8 mile loop hike begins at Deep Gap on Aska Road and is rated easy moderate. Meeting: Park & Ride in Blairsville. Candy Retter 706-897-9538 |
| Nov.7 9 AM D3 | Chunky Gal Trail from Perry Gap to Glade Gap. We will start at Perry Gap and hike south about two hours to the summit of Boteler Peak which has perhaps the best views of any summit in the Nantahala's. Then we continue walking south about another two hours to Glade Gap at Highway 64. Short shuttle. Meeting: Ingles in Hayesville Jerry Carnes rockkicker48@gmail.com |
| Nov. 9 9 AM A1 | Leisure Hike - Easiest Hike This Quarter: Three Vogel Trails - This easy walk of just under three miles at Vogel State Park features a) lake loop trail and waterfall, nature trail loop, and counterclockwise up the Bear Hair Trail a bit and back through the Pioneer Camp and general campground to lakeside parking. No shuttle, park pass required. Meeting: Vogel State Park visitors Center. Wes Clonts 706-714-8930 |
| Nov. 9 9 AM | Georgia Trail Maintenance Day. Meeting: Blairsville Park and Ride Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167 |
| Nov.14 9 AM B3 | Wayah Gap to Siler Bald on the AT. The trail climbs 1,000 feet in 1.9 miles, but the view from top is well worth the effort. A 3.8 mile round trip hike Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville. Sue & Bob Astley 404-702-0273 or 404-403-8425 |

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| Nov. 14 9 AM C3 | Tesnatee Gap to Levelland Mountain on the AT and return. This 7.6 mile hike has spectacular views from Cowrock, Wolf Laurel Top and Levelland Mountains. Wilderness area restrictions. Meeting: Choestoe Baptist Church parking lot on Hwy 180. Candy Retter 706-897-9538 |
| Nov. 16 9 AM A1 or A2 | Leisure Hike - NEW - Return to Smithgall Wood for the Outer Two Loops - This is a return to a new favorite hiked last quarter. This time we will have in-park arranged transportation to the mining loop and another one, and perhaps a bit more. Depending on park supervisor decision. Meeting: Blairsville Park & Ride at 9:00 or Smithgall Wood parking at 9:30. George Owen 706-374-4716 |
| Nov. 16 9 AM | NC Trail Maintenance Day Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167 |
| Nov. 21 9 AM B3 | Yonah Mountain near Cleveland, GA. A 5 mile round trip with 1,700 feet elevation gain, you literally "climb a mountain". This shark-fin shaped mountain has a trail that is a combination of moderate and some steep and rocky sections. Excellent views. Used for military maneuvers: ranger office number to coordinate access is 706-864-3367. Meeting: Trailhead Mike Pilvinsky 706-273-2086 |
| Nov. 21 9 AM E4 | Standing Indian Area. Rock Gap to Albert Mountain on the AT. Hike to Albert MT on the AT and return via Long Branch Trail. Some of the best views in the area at the fire tower. Lunch on the summit. 12 miles round trip Meeting: Ingles in Hayesville Don Muhleman 210-316-6614 |
| Nov. 23 | No Leisure Hike today. Happy Thanksgiving. |
| Nov. 23 | No maintenance today Happy Thanksgiving |
| Nov. 28 9 AM B3 | Indian Grave Gap to Tray Mountain and back. 5 mile moderate hike on the AT to Tray Mt., the second highest point in GA. The trail passes Indian Grave Gap (3113 ft.), a fabulous hillside of galax, the "cheese factory" turnoff, a viewpoint just before Tray Mt. (4430 ft.). Meeting: Macedonia Baptist Church Hiawassee Sue & Bob Astley 404-702-0273 or 404-403-8425 |
| Nov. 28 9 AM E4 | Deep Gap to Fall Branch Falls on the Stanley Gap and Benton MacKaye Trails in Fannin County. 10.4 mile in and out hike, 1,200 foot elevation change in both directions. Meeting: Food Lion in Blue Ridge Steve Dennison 706-299-6825 |
| Nov. 30 9 AM B1 | Leisure Hike - Downhill Trails of the Ocoee River Tanasi Trail System - We begin on the trailhead atop Forest Leisure Hike - Service 221 in Southeast TN. Our hike includes the 1330 Bypass, part of Chestnut Mtn., and Bear Paw trails to the Ocoee Whitewater Center, and the picnic area just downstream for lunch. The hike concludes with trek on the Rhododendron Trail along the cascading Ocoee River to our vehicles at the Tumbling Rock Campground - over five miles total. Shuttle. Meeting: Ducktown Piggly Wiggly. Tim Holby 828-361-4205 |
| Nov. 30 9 AM | NC Trail Maintenance Day Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167 |
| Dec. 5 8:30 AM B3 | Courthouse Gap to Pinnacle Knob down to Warwoman. 5.8 miles moderate hike, some steep climbs, great views, short shuttle required. Follows the Bartram Trail. Optional eat at Universal Joint after hike. Meeting: 8:30 AM Macedonia Baptist Church parking lot east of Hiawassee then drive to Clayton Ingles t meet Hike Leader at 9:15. Ray Lovett 770-519-0210 |
| Dec. 5 9 AM D3 | Hike Inn Trail. 4.9 miles from Amicalola Falls State Park to Len Foote Hike Inn, 4.9 miles return. 9.8 mi total. Several moderate climbs but slower paced hike. Meeting: Food Lion in Blue Ridge. Marjorie Hornsby 828-415-1530 |
| Dec. 7 9 AM B1 | Leisure Hike - Main Central Loop and Upper Loop at Jackrabbit Hike/Bike Trails - We again do part of this popular trail system, often with no bikes to meet us on weekdays in fall. Total mileage: just over 5. Meeting: Hiawassee Jackrabbit Bike/Hike Trails parking lot. Wes Clonts 706-714-8930 |
| Dec. 7 9 AM | Georgia Trail Maintenance Day. Meeting: Blairsville Park and Ride Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167 |
| Dec 8th 6:00 pm | Covered Dish Supper / Christmas Party / Elections / Business Meeting at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Club will supply a TurkeyBring a covered dish for 8. For info call : Candy Retter 706-835-1344 or cfretter4@gmail.com |
| Dec. 12 9 AM C2 | Cohuttas: Grassy Mountain Fire tower and Lake Conasauga Loop. 6.2 miles, great view from tower. Meeting: Ellijay Food Lion Needs Hike Leader |

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| Dec. 12 9 AM D2 | Eagle Mountain, near Hiawassee: 9 mile loop with some steep climbing. About 4:30 hrs. Come climb the mountain that along with Bell Mountain dominates the skyline from Hiawassee and Hayesville. Up close views of Bell Mountain; great views of Lake Chatuge. The route follows old logging roads and receives no maintenance: wear long pants. Meeting: Macedonia Church east of Hiawassee Phyllis & Ken Jones 706-896-5540 |
| Dec. 14 9 AM B1 | Leisure Hike - Three Short Loop Trails of the Young Harris/Hiawassee Area - Our hiking morning begins with the loop trail around the Young Harris College athletic fields. Then it's a quick drive almost next door to do the bottoms loop trail at Brasstown Valley Resort, trailhead at the back of the lodge parking. A final short vehicular hop to the Forest Service Lake Chatuge Day Area gives us the lakeside mile loop maintained by the Mountain High Hikers. Total hike: about 3.5 miles. Three very short shuttles. Meeting: Young Harris College public parking, east side of campus between the tennis courts and Blue Ridge Mtn. EMC headquarters. Laurie Colombo 530-295-7639 |
| Dec. 14 9 AM | NC Trail Maintenance Day Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167 |
| Dec. 19 9 AM C2 | Little Frog Wilderness Hike on the BMT. 6 miles from the Kimsey Highway down to the Ocoee River at Thunder Rock. Gorgeous fall hike. Shuttle required. Meeting: Piggly Wiggly in Ducktown. Tim Holby 828-361-4205 |
| Dec. 19 9 AM C3 | Blue Ridge Gap to Bly Gap at the NC border on the AT and return. 8 miles which includes a 2 mile round trip walk on FS 72 to the Blue Ridge Gap trailhead. 800 ft. elevation gain going in Meeting: Macedonia Baptist Church parking lot east of Hiawassee. Mary Patrick 706-379-4170 |
| Dec. 21 9 AM B2 | Leisure Hike - Anna Ruby Falls, Unicoi Lodge Parking to Helen & Eat - We begin the morning with the paved trail up and back to spectacular Anna Ruby double falls (less than a mile), then complete the a.m. hiking from Unicoi State Park lodge parking on the three-mile trail to Helen, and eat lunch on arrival in Helen. Short shuttle; park pass required. Meeting: Blairsville P/R 9:00 or Robertstown gas station Hellen at 9:30. Wes Clonts 706-714-8930 |
| Dec. 21 9 AM | NC Trail Maintenance Day Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167 |
| Dec. 26 9 AM B3 | Bear Hair Trail in Vogel State Park. Loop hike of about 4 miles with some moderate to steep climbs. Bring hiking sticks and State Park pass or \$5. Wilderness area. Meeting: Choestoe Baptist Church parking lot on Hwy 180. Don Muhleman 210-316-6614 |
| Dec. 26 9 AM C3 | Benton MacKaye Trail from Hwy. 60 across Toonowee Mountain to the suspension bridge and return for 7.2 miles round trip. Elevation change 800 ft. in, 900 ft. out. Meeting: Blue Ridge Food Lion Pam Sullivan 706-374-5281 |
| Dec. 28 9 AM B1 | Leisure Hike - Nottely Lake - First in the morning we will trek the main loop of the new trail system established in 2016 on the northwest corner of the lake. Then we will travel a short distance across Nottely Dam, where just east of the dam we turn north and hike a couple of side trails, the last being along the river. Total about five miles. Meeting: Blairsville Park and Ride at 9:00 or at 9:15 at the southernmost trailhead parking between Loving Road and the dam on the lake's northwest side. George Owen 706-374-4716 |
| Dec. 28 9 AM | Georgia Trail Maintenance Day. Meeting: Blairsville Park and Ride Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167 |

Please contact the Hike Leader or visit www.mountainhighhikers.org for schedule changes
In order to accommodate different hiking levels, we might do "timed-in-and-out" hikes.

Hike Rating: Distance: **A = up to 3 miles** Terrain / Footing: **1 = easy**
B = 3 - 6 miles **2 = average**
C = 6 - 8 miles **3 = moderate**
D = 8 - 10 miles **4 = strenuous**
E = over 10 miles **5 = very strenuous**