

Blue Ridge Hiking Club - First Quarter 2018 Hikes

Monday, Jan 1: Trout Lake to Manor House & Figure 8 Trail: Meet at Trout Lake parking lot, at 9:30. (1st exit left off Parkway just south of Cone Manor going to Rt. 221 and then take an immediate right, a U turn, onto Shull's Mill Rd going under parkway). Meet at the Trout Lake parking lot. About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, January 3 – Meet at Price Picnic Area 10AM. Join Dave for an exploratory ramble, bring a snack and a drink, this is sort of open ended. As you are aware, Boone Fork Trail is a loop, ie sort of a circle. Our question for this hike, is what is inside the circle. Yes, off trail. I'll bet no one has been in this area for 50 years or more. Who knows what we will find? Likely just trees rocks valleys and ridge lines. These I have seen from sat photos. But, I repeat, who knows. An adventure. No dogs. Dave Johnson, djohnson6146@charter.net

Saturday, January, 6, Hwy. 221 Pre-Viaduct Parkway Ramp to Rough Ridge. Hike the old roadbed from Hwy. 221 to Rough Ridge via the closed entry ramp to the Parkway at Wilson Creek Overlook, then the Tanawha to Rough Ridge and return. Approximately 5 mi. roundtrip; moderately strenuous, some rock scrambling. Meet at the entry on Hwy. 221. No dogs. Call hike leader Bob Heath (for directions and start time) at 828-773-0471.

Monday, Jan 8: Bass Lake to Cone Manor loop. Meet at Bass Lake lower parking area, at 9:30. off Rt. 221 just west of Blowing Rock. About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, January 10 – River Loop Trail at Black Mountain Campground. The trail is 4 miles long and is rated easy/moderate. There are some beautiful views of the Black Mountain Range and the South Toe River and one shallow water crossing. After hiking the trail we will go up to view the Setrock Creek Falls in the Black Mountain Campground, thus adding another mile to the hike. No dogs. Call Susan Smith to sign up for the hike. 704-607-0330

Saturday, January 13 Tanawha Trail: Boone Fork Parking Area to Price Park Picnic Area 6 miles. Rated easy/moderate (includes 3 easy water crossings). Hike one-way - cars will be parked for shuttle to origin point. This is a beautiful section of the Tanawha Trail with gentle slopes along wooded terrain, crossing several creeks and open pastures with wildflowers. No Dogs. Contact Juin Adams juinadams@yahoo.com or 828-295- 9607.

Monday, Jan 15: The Maze and Apple Barn at Cone Manor. Meet at Bass Lake lower parking area, at 9:30 - off Rt. 221 just west of Blowing Rock. About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, January 17 – Elk River Falls to Jones Falls on the AT: We will travel to the NC/TN line to begin our hike and follow the Elk river to the intersection with the AT, then continue on to Jones Falls and return. Moderate. No Dogs. Contact Juin Adams juinadams@yahoo.com 828-295-9607.

Saturday, January 20 Bear Wallow/Moonshiners' Run/Raven Rocks in beautiful Roan Mountain State Park, rated the best in TN, 2017. Approx 6 miles, moderate, some parts steep, strenuous. No dogs. Leader: Carol Ann Mitchell. 423-772-4280; camitchell21@gmail.com; 423-957-1207 to call or text but often does not get through here. Poles recommended.

Monday, Jan 22: Mountain-to-Sea Trail: Meet at the Raven Rock Overlook at 9:30 to hike south & north, BRP MP 289.5. About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, January 24 – Rocky Knob Mountain Bike Park. Heading east out of Boone on US 421, the park entrance is on the right, 2 mi past the intersection with NC 194. This 185 acre park has about 8 mi of trails rated moderate. We won't do all 8 miles, more like 5 or 6 sticking to the periphery of the switchbacks. Hiking poles recommended. Bring water and a snack. No dogs. Contact hike leader Eva Rand 301-758-4375; twowheels28@hotmail.com

Saturday, January 27 Hiking Trails at the New River State Park: Hike the 1 mi. Hickory Trail and the 1 ½ River Run Trail at US 221 Access. Visitor Center has a wonderful exhibition to see and rest rooms. From there we will drive to Wagoner Access and hike the trails there. Both areas are easy hiking, some along the New River, believed to be one of the oldest rivers in N. America. Approx. 5-6 miles. No dogs. Call hike leader Allmuth "Curly" Perzel 336-982-8591

Monday, Jan 29: Rich Mountain: Meet at Trout Lake parking lot, at 9:30. (1st exit left off Parkway just south of Cone Manor onto Rt. 221 and then take an immediate right onto Shull's Mill Rd going under parkway). About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, January 31 – Watauga Dam/AT. Great views in winter, trail re-routed, much around Watauga Lake, approx. 8 miles. No dogs. Leader: Carol Ann Mitchell. [423-772-4280](tel:423-772-4280); camitchell21@gmail.com; [423-957-1207](tel:423-957-1207) to call or text but often does not get through here. Poles recommended.

Saturday, February 3 Hebron Falls from Holloway Mtn. Rd. parking. Hike the Tanawha from Holloway Mtn. Rd east to the Boone Fork Trail, then on to Hebron Falls. After the falls, finish Boone Fork loop back to the Tanawha and Holloway Mtn. Rd. Rated easy to moderate. 7 ¾ mi. round trip. Bring hiking poles, a good-sized snack and plenty of water. No dogs. Contact hike leader Eva Rand at 301-758-4375; or twowheels28@hotmail.com.

Monday, Feb 5: Price Lake plus. Meet at Boat ramp parking area at 9:30. BRP MP 297. Since this is a short hike, be prepared to hike over to and up a bit of the Tanawha Trail. About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, February 7 – Orchard Creek Falls: Valle Crucis Trails, from the Valle Crucis Conference Center to Orchard Creek Falls and beyond. Easy to moderate hike to beautiful waterfall and then hike up to ridge top. No Dogs. Contact Juin Adams juinadams@yahoo.com 828-295-9607.

Saturday, February 10, Boone Fork Trail: Meet at the Price Lake picnic ground near MP 296 on the BRP. 5 mile loop, 4 ½ hrs., containing rivers, rapids, waterfalls, meadows, water crossings (easy-difficult, depending on water levels), and rhododendron tunnels. Includes 2 trail ladders. Rated moderately strenuous. Hiking sticks are suggested. No dogs. Call hike leader Bob Heath @ 828-773-0471.

Monday, Feb 12: Green Knob Trail: This is a short trail with a bit of elevation. Meet at Sims Pond Overlook, BRP MP 295.9, at 9:30. About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, February 14, Mountains-to-Sea Trail from Boone Trace (MP 285.1, BRP) to Grandview Overlook (MP 281.2, BRP) - one way. We will spot cars. The adventurous may wish to do round trip. Travel up and down through forest and pasture. Easy to moderate. No dogs. Contact Pam Hoffman, 828-262-9779.

Saturday, February 17, OverMountain Victory Trail /AT/Yellow Mountain Gap: Historic Revolutionary war trail, approx. 9 miles, moderate, some parts strenuous climbing, beautiful, interesting re-routed trail. Poles, plenty of fluid and food. No dogs. Leader: Carol Ann Mitchell. 423-772-4280; camitchell21@gmail.com; 423-957-1207 to call or text but often does not get through here. Poles recommended.

Monday, Feb 19: Old John's River Road to Price Lake, and a visit to King's marker. Meet at Sim's Pond Overlook, BRP MP 295.9, at 9:30. About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, February 21 – Trout Lake to Fire Tower. Approximately 7-8 miles up and back, rated moderate, on Cone Manor carriage trails with approximately 650 ft. elevation gain. Meet at Trout Lake parking area. No Dogs. Contact Juin Adams juinadams@yahoo.com 828-295-9607.

Saturday, February 24, Holloway Mtn. Road Tanawha Trail. To Cold Prong and return. About 4.5 mi., moderate walking. No dogs. Call hike leader Roger Bodo at 828-260-2019.

Monday, Feb 26: Flat Top Observation Tower + Cone Memorial. Meet in front of the Carriage House by Cone Manor, BRP MP 294.1, at 9:30. About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, February 28 – Chestnut Ridge to Raven Rocks in beautiful Roan Mountain State Park, rated the best in TN 2017. Starts at old Miller homestead. Approx 6 miles, moderate, some parts steep, strenuous. No dogs. Leader: Carol Ann Mitchell. 423-772-4280; camitchell21@gmail.com; 423-957-1207 to call or text but often does not get through here. Poles recommended.

Saturday, March 3, Doughton Park Trails: This moderate hike will start at the Basin Cove Overlook on the Bluff Mountain Trail, which offers many scenic vistas and traverses relatively level terrain. The hike will go steeply over Bluff Mt. to the shelter, then continues to the Fodder Stack Tr. and back to the Wildcat Rocks Overlook, from where Caudill Cabin can be seen. Approx. 7 miles+. No dogs. Call hike leader Allmuth "Curly" Perzel at 336-982-8591.

Monday, Mar 5: Old John's River Road to Boone Fork and the new MST bridge. Meet at Sim's Pond Overlook, BRP MP 295.9, at 9:30. About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, March 7 – Basin Creek Trail Hike to Caudill Cabin: (Allegheny/Ashe Co.). 9.6 miles, all-day hike. Rated moderate to strenuous. Elevation gain of 1,560 ft., 34 stream crossings, mostly by rock-hopping. Streams are not deep or wide. Chimneys are left standing from cabins washed away in the terrible flood of 1916. The Caudill cabin, however, is newly restored. Dress for the weather, bring 2 quarts of water, flashlight, hiking sticks for stream hopping, a small towel, and lunch. No dogs. Curly Perzel, at 336-982-8591

Saturday, March 10 Quarterly meeting and Potluck. Hosts: Eva Rand and Roger Bodo. Bring a dish to share and come at 11:00 AM. We will meet inside the Linville Land Harbor Golf Clubhouse. No need to reserve. Questions - contact Eva at twowheels28@hotmail.com or Roger at 828-260-2019.

Monday, Mar 12: Tanawha Trail to Holloway Mountain Road, and on to an older community cemetery. Meet at boat ramp parking at Price Lake, BRP MP 297, at 9:30. About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, March 14 – Three Top - Located in Western Ashe County, the Three Top range, mostly state-owned, is accessed through old logging trails and forest roads. Moderate to strenuous. No dogs. Curly Perzel at 336-982-8591

Saturday, March 17, Watauga Dam/AT: Great views in winter, trail re-routed, much around Watauga Lake, approx. 8 miles. No dogs. Leader: Carol Ann Mitchell. 423-772-4280;

camitchell21@gmail.com; 423-957-1207 to call or text but often does not get through here.
Poles recommended.

Monday, Mar 19: Carriage Barn to Blowing Rock Stables: Meet in front of the Carriage House by Cone Manor, BRP MP 294.1, at 9:30. About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, March 21 – Boone Fork Parking to Rough Ridge

Saturday, March 24, Rocky Knob Trails: Explore the trails at Boone's newest outdoor activity site. Trails are for mountain biking and hiking. Rated easy to moderate. No dogs. Call Roger Bodo at 828-260-2019.

Monday, Mar 26: Mountain-to-Sea Trail to 321. Meet at Thunder Hill Overlook, first overlook on BRP north of 321, MP 290.4, at 9:30. About 5 miles, relaxed pace. Done by noon. Guests and non-members welcome. No dogs.

Wednesday, March 28 – Roaring Creek to the Humps/Houston Ridge/Doll Flats to 19E. Phenomenal 360 views, beautiful forests in the Gaps, approx.. 9 miles, moderate to strenuous, challenging re endurance, steep descent. No dogs. Leader: Carol Ann Mitchell. 423 -772-4280; camitchell21@gmail.com; 423 - 957-1207 to call or text but often does not get through here. Poles recommended.

Saturday, March 31, Table Rock and Shortoff Mountain: Table Rock is 2 mi. of moderately strenuous hiking round trip. After returning to the parking area, depending on the mood of the group, hike the MST toward Shortoff Mountain which affords many beautiful views of the Linville Gorge. Stop at "The Amphitheater" for lunch then return. Total hike will be approximately 4-5 mi. No dogs. Call hike leader Bob Heath: 828-773-0471.