

2020 Johnson City Hiking Schedule for Jan-Feb-Mar
 Founded March of 1990 by Sam Lloyd

Guests are welcome on all hikes. Before coming on your first hike with the club, read the "Info for New Hikers" page at jchikers.weebly.com and call Joel Zabel at 423-631-6385. Participation in club activities carries with it the obligation to hold the club and its representatives free of liability for individual safety. Only attend hikes that are within your ability; if in doubt, contact the hike leader or Joel Zabel. Please bring rain gear, food, plenty of water, gas money, and appropriate clothing on all hikes. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the hikes or at the trail heads. No pets are allowed on hikes. CHECK the jchikers.weebly.com home page on Friday evening for changes and updates to the next morning's hike.

Check the MEETINGS SPOTS page at jchikers.weebly.com for zoomable maps showing the locations listed below and precisely where we park:

- *Long John Silver's, South Johnson City: 1903 S Roan Str, 37601 - corner of University Pkwy & S Roan Str, in east part of parking lot behind LJS and Parkway Wine & Liquor
- **Jonesborough Post Office: 121 Boone Str, 37659 - in parking lot south of the PO building, next to the Jonesborough Visitor Center building
- ***Kroger, North Johnson City : 112 Sunset Dr, 37604 - near Browns Mill Rd & N Roan Str , in the SE part of parking lot, behind Red Pig Bar-B-Q.
- ****Elizabethton Food City: 920 Broad Str, 37643 - corner of Broad Str & Hwy 19E, NE corner of parking lot, nearest to the intersection of Broad Str and Hwy 19E.
- *****Erwin Linear Trail parking: N Industrial Dr, 37650 - in gravel parking area next to Erwin Linear Trail, on the northwest side (toward Interstate) of Pal's on N Industrial Dr.
- *****MeadowView Convention Center, Kingsport: 1901 Meadowview Pkwy, 37660 - NW corner of parking lot, closest to Hwy 26/23 Exit 3

Jan 4	Moderate 4.5 to 8 mile in & out hike on the Morrell Trail & Panhandle Rd. The 4.5 version climbs 1700' to turn around at Panhandle Rd. Nice views north to the Clinch Mtns along the way. Continuing to the 1976 military jet crash site and memorial will make a 6 mile hike. The 8 mile hike uses Low Gap picnic area for lunch and turn around. Leaders Scott Thomsen (423-646-8741) and Joel Zabel (423-631-6385). Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 AM. If you wish to be met at Food City in Elizabethton**** at 8:20, contact Joel. If you are coming from Bristol or Virginia and would like to be met at Hickory Tree Grocery on the corner of Hwy 44 & Flatwoods Rd at 8:40, contact Joel or Scott.
Jan 11	Moderate 9-mile or strenuous 12-mile key-swap hike on Pinnacle and Buffalo Mtns. The two trailheads will be the Pinnacle Tower trailhead on the mountain's east side and a gated path on Dry Creek Rd on the west side. The 9-mile hike between them will use three closed mountain roads and the Pinnacle tower trail. Either group can add 1.4 to 3 miles by climbing up to the tower and back. 1500' to 1800' of climbing. This will be a joint hike with MAHC. Leave Long John Silver's*/Arbys at 8 am. Leaders: Joel Zabel 423-631-6385 and Eric Middlemas, (423) 282-6987.

Jan 18	Moderate 5-mile hike on the ridge above Wilbur & Watauga Lakes. We'll hike the abandoned AT from Wilbur Lake to a high point above Watauga Dam. Great views from high above the lakes, dam, and surrounding valleys. There are some steep, strenuous sections and over 1600' of climbing: hiking poles recommended. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9 am or contact leader Joel Zabel (423-631-6385) if you wish to meet at Food City in Elizabethton**** at 9:20.
Jan 25	Moderate 12 mile hike in the South Holston Dam area. After a 45-minute drive, we'll park at a trailhead on Piney Hill Road, downstream from the dam. After walking 1.9 miles, mainly on Emmett Trail and Tailwater Trail, we'll arrive at Holston View Dam Road. From there we'll use trails that intertwine with the road for 1.5miles until we reach the top of the dam. At this point we'll make a 1.5-mile out & back, crossing the dam and continuing to an overlook. Our next section is a 3.7-mile out & back on Ross Ridge Trail (AKA Spillway road), which ends at Bent Branch Spillway on the shore of South Holston Lake. We'll stop for lunch near the spillway. After returning to the road from the spillway, we'll take a slightly shorter route 3 miles back to the vehicle(s). Meet behind Long John Silvers* and leave at 8:00 AM. Contact hike leader Jeff Miller (423-833-7889) if you'd like to leave from Food City**** in Elizabethton.
Feb 1	Moderate to strenuous 8-mile hike on the south side of Buffalo Mountain. We'll follow a closed forest rd. from Dry Creek Rd to Basil Gap, then hike an abandoned trail toward the towers. We'll go off trail for about 3/8 mile to Ed's Escarpment, a remote overlook for lunch. We'll continue to Tip Top via the White Rock and High Ridge Trails, then hike down to Dry Creek Rd on the Lone Oak Trail. Leave Long John Silvers* at 9am. Leader: Joel Zabel 423-631-6385
Feb 8	Moderate 8.5 mile hike in the Dry Creek Road corridor. This is a dumbbell hike, named for its shape (a straight trail with loops at each end). We'll park on Dry Creek Road and start by ascending Briar Creek Road (FS Rd 188) 1 mile. We then enter the woods to the left at a parking/turn around spot. This trail takes us .1 mile northeast and then left for nearly .1 mile, where we turn right onto White Tape Trace (my name for it). White Tape Trace, which is the straight part of the dumbbell, takes us northeast for about 1.5 miles along a ridge, with Dry Creek Road in the valley to our left and view of Buffalo and Pinnacle mountains to the right. The far loop begins at the end of White Tape Trace. It's 3.5 miles and includes crossing Dry Creek Road twice, The Green Mile, Horse Cove Gap, the ATV/motorcycle parking lot, Copperhead Hollow (my name for it, based on past experience), and a few other unnamed trails. After looping, we retrace White Tape Trace. We then turn right, descend .5 mile to Briar Creek Road (thus completing the near loop), and walk the road .3 mile back to the vehicle. Hike leader Jeff Miller (423-833-7889). Leave from behind Long John Silvers* at 8 AM.
Feb 15	Open date. It will be filled with a cancelled or other hike; it will be posted on the website front page and emailed to club members before the hike.
Feb 22	Strenuous 11 mile hike at Bays Mtn Park. Starting from the Eastman Lodge, climb to the dam, cross it and continue west on Bays Ridge road and trail. Turn north and head generally eastward on multiple trails including Cherry Knobs to reach the fire tower. Go

	east to the antennas on River Mtn Rd, then SW on Big Oak Trail, back to the dam and down to the start. Leave Kroger***, north Johnson City at 8:00 AM to meet the leader, Yong Li (423-276-2720) at the MeadowView Convention Center***** in Kingsport at 8:20 (or go directly to MeadowView to meet Yong there.)
Feb 29	An 11 mile moderate to strenuous key swap hike with the MAHC on the AT between Spivey Gap and Chestoa. One group will start at Spivey Gap and hike north on the AT through open woods and along a beautiful stream (1800' of climbing). The other group will hike south from Chestoa, starting with wonderful views of the Nolichucky River (3300' of climbing). Leaders: Jeff Miller (423-833-7889) and Roy Holcomb (423) 936-1313. Depart Long John Silver's* / Arby's 8:00 am
Mar 7	Moderate 8 mile hike between Lower Higgins Creek and Rocky Fork via Higgins Pond (joint key swap hike with MAHC) The hike will follow an old, grassed road with gentle grade to weave northeastward from Rocky Fork area up to Lower Higgins Pond, aka Birchfield Camp Lake. Proceeding from there, a rugged old logging trail passes Big Falls on Lower Higgins Creek and continues down to Lower Higgins Creek parking area. Leaders: Joel Zabel (423) 631-6385 and Eric Middlemas, (423) 282-6987. Depart Arby's / Long John Silvers* at 8:00 a.m.
Mar 14	Very strenuous 10 mile loop to Graybeard Mtn or 7+ mile strenuous in & out hikes from Montreat, NC. The loop starts on the Lower Piney Trail, then turns right on Big Piney Ridge Trail for a steep climb to Rattlesnake Rock with a great view of Black Mtn, then continues with a right on the West Ridge Trail. Some of the West Ridge is a rocky rollercoaster, akin to the Black Mtn Crest, with multiple views of the Blue Ridge Parkway as it winds along the Craggy Mtns. We'll reach the northernmost and highest point of our loop: Graybeard Mtn (5408') with a panorama of the southern Black Mtns, including Mt. Mitchell. Our loop is completed by descending the Graybeard Trail, with stops at Walker's Knob for a view of Montreat Valley and Graybeard Falls. If you are interested in the less strenuous in & out hike options, contact leader Joel Zabel (423-631-6385). Leave Long John Silvers at 8am. Drive: 80 miles, 1.5 hours.
Mar 21	Open date. It will be filled with a cancelled or other hike; it will be posted on the website front page and emailed to club members before the hike.
Mar 28	Moderate to strenuous 9 mile hike key swap hike: Round Knob/ AT-Firescald Ridge/ Jerry Miller. This is a joint hike with the MAHC. One group will climb the Jerry Miller Trail to the AT, visit the grand western views from the Blackstack Cliffs, take the AT north over Firescald Ridge with multiple panoramas, eventually turning down the trail to the Round Knob picnic shelter. ~2800' of climbing. The other group will reverse the route and have ~2100' of climbing. Leave Long John Silver's*/Arby's at 8am. Leaders: Joel Zabel (423) 631-6385, Eric Middlemas (423)282-6987.