

2021 Johnson City Hiking Schedule for July-August-September
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 your 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 to drink, 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 homepage 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

July 3rd Moderate 5 mile to very strenuous 9.4 mile in & out hikes on the AT between Wilbur Dam Rd and the Vandeventer Shelter. Total climbing is 3100' for the 9.4 miler. Those looking for something less strenuous can turn around at any time; there are nice views above Watauga Lake in the first two miles of the hike. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9 (NINE) AM. If you wish to be met at Food City in Elizabethton**** at 9:20, contact leader Yong Li (423-276-2720) , or meet at the AT crossing of Wilbur Dam Rd at 9:40. Drive: 19 miles from LJS.

July 10th Strenuous to very strenuous 8.5 mile hike on the AT between Carvers Gap and Hampton Creek Road. This will be a joint key-swap hike with the MAHC. Those starting on Hampton Creek Road will have over 3400' of climbing. This hike will utilize the Overmountain Victory Trail to pass through Hampton Cove State Natural area to reach Yellow Mountain Gap where it connects with the AT. Along the AT our hike passes over the panoramic open "Balds of Roan". Leave Long John Silver's/Arbys at 8 am. Drive: 36 miles. JCHC leader: Joel Zabel (423-631-6385) MAHC leader: Ken Rea (423) 737-3882 kenrea2@gmail.com

July 17th Strenuous 7.4 mile AT maintenance hike between Beauty Spot Road and Iron Mtn Gap. This will be the summer clean-up of the AT section that JCHC maintains. We will be trimming weeds and encroaching vegetation, and removing any small blowdowns. You don't have to do any maintenance to join us - you can just hike. If you do plan to take a turn on a weed wacker, wear long pants, and a long sleeve shirt that will not be ruined by the green, juicy weed bits that fly. Tools and protective head gear will be provided, but bring your own gloves and safety glasses. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9am. Leader: Joel Zabel 423-631-6385.

July 24th Moderate 8 mile to strenuous 10.5 mile hike from east of Ripshin Lake to Little Rock Knob on the AT. We'll hike from Peters Cemetery, following old forest roads and trails to an open area on Pine Mtn. Hikers can have lunch there with a view and head back for an 8 miler (1100' of climbing). The rest will continue to the AT, heading southbound (actually west) just past Little Rock Knob for lunch with nice northern views from a rocky outcrop (1700' of climbing). After the hike, Ed Brading has graciously invited hikers to relax at his cabin on the shore of Ripshin Lake. Enjoy a canoe or rowboat ride, or just chill on the dock or porch. Hikers can also bring a sleeping bag and pad to stay overnight on the cabin's screened porch (room for about 8), or bring a tent to set up on the lake's grass covered earthen dam. Bring your own food and drink for supper/breakfast (refrigerator, stove, and grill available). A folding chair may be useful. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9 am, or to be met at Food City**** in Elizabethton at 9:20, contact Joel Zabel at (423)631-6385. 27 mile drive from LJS.

July 31st OPEN: no hike scheduled, but may be used for a previously cancelled hike or one selected during the week. If there is a hike to fill this date, it will be emailed to club members and posted on the homepage of the club website by Thursday evening.

August 7th Strenuous 9.8 hike in Rocky Fork State Park. This loop hike will follow these trails: Rocky Fork, Flint Creek, Blockstand Creek, Headwaters, and White Oak Flats. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 AM. Co-leaders: Jim Foster and Joel Zabel 423-631-6385.

August 14th Strenuous 10.4 mile AT hike between Dennis Cove and Bitter End. This will be a joint key-swap hike with the MAHC. Those starting at Dennis Cove will have over 2500' of climbing. Those hiking in the opposite direction will have over 1600'. This AT section generally parallels Laurel Fork and follows the crest of White Rocks Mountain. Drive: 35 miles. Leaders: JCHC - Joel Zabel (423) 631-6385. MAHC - Dave Polon,(423) 302-8368. Depart Long John Silver's*\ Arbys at 8:00 am. If you would like to be met at the Elizabethton Food City**** at 8:15, contact Joel.

August 21st OPEN: no hike scheduled, but may be used for a previously cancelled hike or one selected during the week. If there is a hike to fill this date, it will be emailed to club members and posted on the homepage of the club website by Thursday evening.

August 28th Moderate 9.5-mile hike. We'll park on Dry Creek Rd at Horse Cove Gap, across from the Buffalo Mt ATV/OHV parking lot. Our first 4 miles take us NE through Horse Cove, turning SW at Basil Gap and ascending to about 3040 ft (we parked at 2400 ft). Here we turn left and follow the northern part of Forest Service Rd 4354 a half mile, through a section kept clear by mountain bikers, to a high point where FSR 4354 becomes more prominent. 4353 then winds SW 1.2 miles to FSR 4354A, where we turn right and go 2.6 miles to the ATV trail. Our walk on the ATV trail is only about .1 mile. After that, we descend 1.2 miles back to our parking spot (following a clear but unmarked trail we also used last Nov 7). Leave together from Long John Silvers* at 9 (NINE) AM. Hike leader Jeff Miller (423-833-7889).

September 4th Strenuous 8.5 mile AT hike between Devil Fork Gap and Sams Gap. This will be a joint key-swap hike with the MAHC. This section of AT has many positives—an overlook at High Rock, rewarding views at Frozen Rock /Lick Rock, old farms, a waterfall, and a cemetery. Those starting at Devil Fork Gap will have 2750' of climbing; opposite direction: 2100'. Drive: 33 miles. JCHC leader: Jeff Miller 423-833-7889. MAHC leader: Judy Middlemas, (423) 282-6987; (423) 943-7606; judy.middlemas@gmail.com. Depart Long John Silver's*/Arby's 8:00 a.m.

September 11th OPEN: no hike scheduled, but may be used for a previously cancelled hike or one selected during the week. If there is a hike to fill this date, it will be emailed to club members and posted on the homepage of the club website by Thursday evening.

September 18th Very strenuous 9.5 mile up and back hike to the Eagle Cliff on Roan Mtn. We'll climb 2900' up the historic, abandoned Bald Road from Buladean, NC to the western end of Roan Mtn ridge. This road was used by Buladean farmers to haul their produce to the Cloudland Hotel over a century ago. Lunch will be at the Eagle Cliff with its grand view SW to the Smokys. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 AM. Leader: Joel Zabel 423-631-6385.

September 25th Very strenuous 9.2 to 13 mile in and out hike on the Black Mtn Crest Trail. We start from the northern trailhead at Bowlen's Creek, climbing steadily 3000' to 6000', where we reach a dramatic open view of the Black Mtn range and its highest peaks. This spot just below Celo Knob (6,327 ft.), the northernmost major peak in the Blacks, is the turnaround for the 9.2 mile hike. Those continuing on will first have a western panorama: on clear days the high peaks of the Great Smoky Mtns NP are visible over 50 miles away. The trail climbs the rocky spine of the Crest, with intermittent vistas in all directions. The 13 mile turn around is the end of the high ridge before Winter Star Mtn. Harsh weather at this elevation may force a hike change or cancelation; check your email or the website the Friday evening before this hike for updates. The drive is 54 miles, 1hr 5min. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8AM. Leader: Joel Zabel, 423-631-6385.