

2022 Johnson City Hiking Schedule for April-May-June
Founded in March 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 comfortably 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. Open dates may be filled with previously canceled hikes.

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

April 2: Strenuous 10 mile hike on Holston Mtn from Hinkle Branch Trailhead. We'll head up Hinkle Branch, then make a loop near the mountain top, between Low Gap and Rye Patch Knob. We'll stop at the 1976 crash site of the RF-4C Phantom Jet near the ridge. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9 (NINE) AM. If you would like to meet at Elizabethton Food City**** at 9:15, contact leader Joel Zabel, 423-631-6385.

April 9: Moderate to strenuous 9-mile hike in Unaka Springs area. We'll make a loop using the Lost Wagon Trail, Temple Hill Trail, AT, the upper end of Unaka Springs Road, and other trails. 1600'+ of climbing. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9 (NINE) AM. Leader Joel Zabel (423-631-6385).

April 16: Strenuous 9.4 mile AT hike from Iron Mtn Gap to Hughes Gap. This is a joint key swap hike with the MAHC. Our club will start at IMG and have over 2800' of total climbing. Great view from our lunch spot near the Little Rock Knob summit. We will also clear some known blowdowns with handsaws. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 (EIGHT) AM. Leader Joel Zabel (423-631-6385).

April 23: Moderate 7 mile loop on Holston Mtn. We'll hike up to the Holston Mtn fire tower, then follow Holston Mtn Trl and Flint Mill Trl to Flint Rock for lunch. Flint Rock has great views of South Holston Lake, Holston Valley and Clinch Mtn. We'll hike back on old FS 4202 (Flint Mill Gap Rd). Leave Long John Silver's* at 9(NINE) AM. If you want to be met at Elizabethton Food City**** at 9:15, contact the leader Joel Zabel at 423-631-6385.

April 30: 6, 9, and 11.8 mile hikes on the AT from Hughes Gap up Roan Mountain and back. There is a nice hidden overlook at Beartown Mountain at 2.5 miles. The 6 mile hike is moderate to strenuous with a 1600' of climbing to Ash Gap & back. Ash Gap may be filled with blooming wildflowers. The strenuous 9 mile hike has 2500' of climbing through the unique mile high ecosystem of Roan Mtn. We'll lunch at the Cloudlands Hotel site near 6200' with a vista that includes the Black Mtns with Mt Mitchell. Hikers can choose that as a turnaround, or can add the 2.8 mile round trip to the grand view NW from the Roan High Bluff overlook (6267') - total climb of 2900'. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 (EIGHT) AM. Leader Joel Zabel (423-631-6385).

May 7: Very strenuous 11.9 mile AT hike from Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mtn Gap. This is a joint key swap hike with the MAHC. Our club will start at IGG and have over 3900' of total climbing. We go over Beauty Spot and through the Emerald Forest as we cross the Unaka Mtn summit. This AT stretch includes both the OTHC and JCHC maintenance sections; we will carry handsaws to remove blowdowns. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 (EIGHT) AM. Leader Joel Zabel (423-631-6385)

May 14: Moderate 11-mile hike in the South Holston Dam area. After a 40-minute drive, we'll park at a trailhead on Piney Hill Road, downstream from the dam. After walking 1.9 miles, mainly on Emmett and Tailwater trails, we'll arrive at Holston View Dam Road. From there we'll use trails that intertwine with the road, heading toward the top of the dam. 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. Returning from the spillway, we'll then cross the dam. We'll take a slightly shorter route back to the parking lot. Meet behind Long John Silvers* and leave at 9:00 AM. Contact hike leader Jeff Miller (423-833-7889) if you'd like to meet at Food City**** in Elizabethton at 9:15. If you're coming from Bluff City, Bristol, or farther north, you're welcome to meet us at 633 Piney Hill Road, Bristol TN, at 9:40. This address is to the nearest house, but it's very close to our gravel parking lot on the southeast side of Piney Hill Road. (Please tell Jeff if you're taking this option.)

May 21: Strenuous 10 mile loop hike from the Rock Creek Rec area that includes Rock Creek Falls and the panoramic view from Pleasant Garden for lunch. This is similar to the loop we scouted on November 10th, 2021, but without the steep bushwack. A better route using a reclaimed trail between Rock Creek Falls and Beauty Spot Gap will be used. Rattlesnake Ridge Trail will be our return. Over 2600' of climbing. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 EIGHT AM. Joel Zabel 423-631-6385.

May 28: Open

June 4: Arduous and beautiful 13-mile hike on the AT from Sam's Gap to Big Bald and back. Over 3700' of climbing. Shorter options include turning around at Street Gap (4.8 miles) or Low Gap (7.4 miles). Leave Long John Silver's* 8 EIGHT AM. You can also meet the group at the Sam's Gap AT parking area at 8:40.

June 11: Very strenuous, wonderfully scenic, 12.7 mile camel hike. We'll head south on the AT from 19E, climbing first over Hump Mtn, then dropping to the saddle of Bradley Gap before ascending Little Hump. We'll continue down to Yellow Mtn Gap, then follow the Overmountain Victory Trail to Hampton Creek Road. Over 3800' of climbing. 15 minute shuttle between trailheads. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 EIGHT AM. Leader: Joel Zabel 423-631-6385.

June 18: Moderate to strenuous 10.2 mile AT hike from TN91 to McQueens Gap. This is a joint key swap hike with the MAHC. Double Spring Shelter and views of Shady Valley are along the way. Over 2300' of total climbing from TN91, 2000' from MG. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 (EIGHT) AM. Leader Joel Zabel (423-631-6385).

June 25: Open