

2022 Johnson City Hiking Schedule for October-November-December
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 the 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 and 19E.

*****Erwin Linear Trail parking: N Industrial Dr, 37650 - in the gravel parking area next to Erwin Linear Trail, on the northwest side (toward Interstate) of Pal's.

*****MeadowView Convention Center, Kingsport: 1901 Meadowview Pkwy, 37660 - NW corner of parking lot, closest to Hwy 26/23 Exit 3

October 1st: Easy/moderate 5 mile hike to Laurel Falls. We'll follow the Hampton Blueline trail to the AT, take the high water trail to the shelter, then down to the falls. The falls may be spectacular, as the forecast is for heavy rain tonight. Such rain increases the falls' roar many fold. If the stream level is not too high, we'll loop back along it. Otherwise, we will retrace our route using the high water trail. Rain is likely during the hike; expect puddling on part of the route and unavoidable wet shoes. Leave Long John Silver's at 9 NINE AM. Hike leader: Joel Zabel 423-631-6385.

October 8th Moderate 8 mile hike on Roan Mtn. Starting at Carvers Gap, we follow the AT, the Cloudland Trail, a closed forest road, and several unnamed trails to have lunch at a secluded, rocky outcrop high on the west side of Roan. It provides a stunning vista toward the Smokies, 60 miles to the southwest. This is the only place on Roan Mtn with an open view in this direction. 1600'+ of climbing. 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 Joel Zabel (423-631-6385)

October 15th 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 8 EIGHT AM. Leaders: Joel Zabel (423) 631-6385, Ken Rea (423)737-3882

October 22nd Strenuous 8-mile loop (2300' climbing) from Martin Creek in Erwin. Using lightly traveled trails and the AT, we'll hike to Fort Foster for lunch with nice fall views of the Unaka Ridge to the east, and the Erwin valley to the west. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9 NINE AM. Leader Joel Zabel (423) 631-6385.

October 29th Open

November 5th Strenuous 8 mile in & out hike from Horse Creek Rec Area. We follow Horse Crk Rd/trail to a remote trail, climbing it to lunch at Miller's Mantle – a rocky prominence on the north side of Rich Mtn. It has wonderful views north & east. Over 2400' of mostly steady climbing. There are multiple creek crossings that can usually be rock hopped. Leave the Jonesborough Post Office** at 9 NINE AM. Leader: Joel Zabel (423-631-6385)

November 12th Moderate to difficult 9-mile loop hike. We'll drive 40 minutes (28 miles) toward Spivey Gap, but will turn left/north off of 19W and onto Granny Lewis Rd shortly before the TN/NC line and park at Kan Lot (AKA Can Lot) shortly up G.L. Rd. We'll hike NE on G.L. Rd, gradually descending 860 feet in 3 miles. We'll then turn right to climb 7/10 of a mile to Temple Hill Gap, where we'll again turn right and join the AT. We'll follow the southbound AT 4.8 miles, stopping at No Business Knob Shelter along the way and then gradually ascending to 3,440 ft. (1000+ ft. above our earlier low point). We then turn right/southeast to descend a half mile to Kan Lot. Meet behind Long John Silvers* to leave together at 8 AM. Hike leader Jeff Miller (423-833-7889).

November 19th Open

November 26th Moderate 9 mile AT keyswap hike: Allen Gap to Tanyard Gap. Joint key swap hike with MAHC. North to south the AT ascends steadily from Allen Gap along Spring Mountain toward Rich Mountain, crossing the Rich Mountain Fire Road in Hurricane Gap. From here we climb a steep ascension on the northern slope of Rich Mountain. We cross Roundtop Knob and descend to Tanyard Gap. We will take a side trip to the Rich Mountain Fire Tower. Leader: Joel Zabel (423)631-6385. Leave Long John Silver's*/Arby's at 8:00 AM.

December 3rd 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 Rustic Ridge. Rustic Ridge, the straight part of the dumbbell, takes us northeast for about 1.5 miles, with Dry Creek Road in the valley to our left and views of Buffalo and Pinnacle mountains to the right. The far loop begins at the end of Rough Ridge; it's 3.5 miles and includes crossing Dry Creek Road twice, The Green Mile, Horse Cove Gap, the ATV/motorcycle parking lot, or and a few other unnamed trails. After looping, we hike back on Church Trail, parallel to and a bit below Rustic Ridge. 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). Meet behind Long John Silvers* at 9 NINE AM.

December 10th Open

December 17th 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 Long John Silvers*/Arby's at 8 AM.

December 24th NO hike - enjoy your Christmas Eve

December 31st Happy 2023! Join us for this New Year's Eve Day hike on the Pinnacle Tower Trail - 9.5 miles total to the tower and back. Leave with the group at 9 AM from Long John Silver's*, or meet us at the trailhead near I26 Exit 32 at 9:10. Leader: Joel Zabel 423-631-6385.