

2023 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 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

4/1/23 Strenuous 12-mile hike on Bays Mountain. We'll drive 45 minutes to Laurel Run Park in Church Hill. We'll hike 6 miles to the Bays Mtn Fire Tower, starting with an overlook on Canebrake Mountain, then continuing on Laurel Run Trail, Kiner Hollow Trail, Indian Pipes Trail, and River Mt. Road. The route back will use different trails. Meet at Kroger*** in north Johnson City and leave at 8:00 AM. If you would like to leave from MeadowView Convention Center***** in Kingsport at 8:20, contact hike leader Jeff Miller (423-833-7889). If these meeting spots are new to you, see the MEETING SPOTS page on our website for zoomable maps with precise meeting locations in those parking lots.

4/8/23 Very strenuous 11.9 mile AT hike from Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mtn Gap. This is a key swap with the MAHC. JCHC will start at IGG and have 3920' of total climbing; opposite way 3560'. 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. JCHC leader: Joel Zabel (423-631-6385) MAHC leader: David Polon 423-302-8368.

4/15/23 Moderate to strenuous 9 to 10 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).

4/22/23 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.

4/29/23 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 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') - 2900' of climbing. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 (EIGHT) AM. Leader: Elaine Frantz (423)232-5998

5/6/23 OPEN - If a hike is selected for this date, an email will be sent to all club members and it will be posted on the first page of the website before Friday evening.

5/13/23 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, with Mt Guyot, 67 miles WSW, visible on a clear day. 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. To meet at Food City in Elizabethton**** at 9:15, contact leader Joel Zabel (423-631-6385)

5/20/23 Difficult 11.5 mile loop in the Clarks Creek area, south of hwy 107 near Telford. We'll ascend Long Arm Branch 4 miles to Bearwallow Gap, viewing Pine Ridge Falls and Long Arm Branch Falls on the way. At Bearwallow Gap, we turn left and head toward Willards Hump Road (aka FS rd. 5066). Willards Hump Road takes us to the top of Sill Branch South Trail, which descends 1450 feet back to Clarks Creek Road. We'll take a side trail near the bottom to view Sill Branch Falls. Finally, a quarter-mile walk on Clarks Creek Road will return us to the starting point. Hike leader Jeff Miller (423-833-7889). Meet at the Jonesborough Post Office** and leave at 8:00 AM.

5/27/23 OPEN - If a hike is selected for this date, an email will be sent to all club members and it will be posted on the first page of the website before Friday evening.

6/3/23 Very strenuous and scenic 13.4 mile AT hike between Spivey Gap and Sams Gap. This is a key swap with the MAHC. Starting from Spivey, our first stop will be to enjoy the vista from

High Rocks, before dropping to Whistling Gap. We then climb Little Bald, follow the ridge past the Bald Mtn shelter, and savor the mile high views as we walk through the open field of Big Stamp, before reaching our lunch spot at the hike high point of 5516', atop the panoramic Big Bald summit. After descending to Street Gap, we climb through one last open meadow, turning around to see the mountain just conquered, before finishing at Sams. Over 4300' of climbing vs 3720' the opposite way. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 (EIGHT) AM. JCHC leader: Joel Zabel (423-631-6385) MAHC leader: David Polon 423-302-8368.

6/10/23 Strenuous 13.3 mile loop hike starting in Rocky Fork State Park (now officially Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork SP). This lollipop loop starts from the main RFSP parking lot and covers portions of the Rocky Fork, White Oak Flats, Headwaters, Fort Davie Creek, and High Country Trails. Leave Long John Silver's at 8 EIGHT AM. Leaders: Jim Foster and Joel Zabel 423-631-6385.

6/17/23 Very strenuous 8.6 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 3100' to 6150' elevation in 4.3 miles, 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 8.6 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 follows the rocky spine of the Crest, never dropping below 6000', 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 cancellation; check your email or the website the Friday evening before this hike for updates. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 EIGHT AM. Leader: Joel Zabel, 423-631-6385.

6/24/23 OPEN - If a hike is selected for this date, an email will be sent to all club members and it will be posted on the first page of the website before Friday evening.

