

2023 Johnson City Hiking Schedule for January - February - March
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

1/7/23 Strenuous 9.4 mile AT hike from Iron Mtn Gap to Hughes Gap. Over 2800' of total climbing. Great view from our lunch spot near the Little Rock Knob summit. We will also clear any reasonably sized blowdowns with handsaws. A club member/s will shuttle a vehicle/s from our start at IMG to HG. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9 (NINE) AM. Leader Joel Zabel (423-631-6385).

1/14/23 Strenuous 10 mile hike in the Sampson Mountain Wilderness. We'll all follow the Squibb Creek trail from the Horse Creek Rec Area to the Turkey Pen Cove Trail, then climb it to the intersection with the Middle Spring Ridge Trail (MSRT). We continue up the ridge to Buzzard Rock overlook with high, open views for lunch: Rocky Fork is below, while Big Bald rises 9 miles east. This hike has 2800' of climbing. Leave JONESBOROUGH POST OFFICE** at 8 EIGHT AM. Leader: Joel Zabel 423-631-6385

1/21/23 Open

1/28/23 Moderate 9 mile key swap hike on the AT between Chestoa and Indian Grave Gap. This is a joint hike with the MAHC. The group starting at Chestoa will have 2200' climbing; the group starting at Indian Grave Gap: 500'. The Chestoa group will also detour off the AT for lunch to Fort Foster, a rocky outcrop with open views toward Beauty Spot and Unaka Mtn. Leave Long John Silver's/ Arby's at 8 (EIGHT) AM. If you would like to be met at the *****Erwin Linear Trail parking next to Pal's at 8:20, contact leader Joel Zabel (423)631-6385. MAHC leader: Eric Middlemas, emiddlemas@protonmail.com (423) 282-6987.

2/4/23 Long (10 or 14 miles) and strenuous (2600 ft. gain) hike on Unaka Mountain. We'll park in the Limestone Cove Recreation Area, at Rocky Branch Road on the south side of hwy 107. We'll ascend Limestone Cove Trail 4 miles to its intersection with Stamping Ground Ridge Trail. We then turn right toward Unaka Mt Rd (AKA Red Fork Rd, Beauty Spot Gap Rd, FS Rd 230), continuing to Pleasant Garden and then back (a 3.8 mile out & back segment, which is the difference between the 10 and 14 mile options). The descent is 6 miles, first on Stamping Ground Ridge Trail and then on Rocky Branch Rd (FS Rd 4343). Depart from behind Long John Silvers* at 8 AM. Contact hike leader Jeff Miller (423-833-7889) if you'd like to join our caravan at the Unicoi Town Hall at 8:15. (Unicoi Town Hall is on the left side of Unicoi Drive [aka Erwin Hwy, aka Hwy 173], immediately before turning left to exit Unicoi on Hwy 107.)

2/11/23 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 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 1.5 miles until we reach the top of the dam. At this point we'll go out & back across 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. 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 9 NINE AM. Contact hike leader Jeff Miller (423-833-7889) if you'd like to leave from Food City*** in Elizabethton. 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.

2/18/23 An 11.2 mile moderate to strenuous key swap hike with the MAHC on the AT between Spivey Gap and Chestoa. MAHC will start at Spivey Gap and hike north on the AT through open woods and along a beautiful stream (1800' of climbing). JCHC will hike south from Chestoa, starting with wonderful views of the Nolichucky River (3300' of climbing). Leaders: Joel Zabel 423-631-6385 and Dave Polon 423-302-8368. Depart Long John Silver's* / Arby's 8 EIGHT AM. If you would like to be met at the *****Erwin Linear Trail parking next to Pal's at 8:20, contact leader Joel Zabel (423)631-6385. MAHC leader: Dave Polon 423-302-8368

2/25/23 Very strenuous 9 mile hike between Hampton Creek Road and Carvers Gap. This will be a joint key-swap hike with the MAHC. Those starting on Hampton Creek Road will have a demanding 3700' 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 panoramic Jane Bald and Round Bald. Leave Long John Silver's at 8 EIGHT AM. If you wish to be met at Food City in Elizabethton**** at 9:20, contact leader Joel Zabel (423-631-6385). MAHC leader: Eric Middlemas, emiddlemas@protonmail.com (423) 282-6987.

3/4/23 Open

3/11/23 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 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'. If you would like to be met at the *****Erwin Linear Trail parking next to Pal's at 8:20, contact leader Joel Zabel (423)631-6385. MAHC leader: Dave Polon 423-302-8368

3/18/23 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. If you wish to be met at Food City in Elizabethton**** at 9:20, contact leader Joel Zabel (423-631-6385)

3/25/23 Open