

2023 Johnson City Hiking Schedule for Oct - Nov - Dec
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, or **if anyone would like to lead a hike on an open date, contact Joel.**

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

10/7/23 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)

10/14/23 Strenuous 8-mile loop (2300' climbing) from Martin Creek in Erwin. Using lightly traveled trails and the AT, we'll hike to historic Fort Foster for lunch with splendid 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.

10/21/23 Moderate 8 mile hike to Honey Rock. From Spivey Gap, we'll follow the AT, old forest roads and trails to the Rock on the steep northern flank of Flattop Mountain, where we'll have

lunch with a broad view of the Nolichucky Gorge. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9 NINE AM.
Leader: Joel Zabel 423-631-6385.

10/28/23 Strenuous 10 mile hike in the Sampson Mountain Wilderness. We'll 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: Luke Carter 423-737-6428

11/4/23 Moderate 9 mile in & out hike to Lost Cove from Poplar. We will follow the route that Lost Cove residents used when they traveled between Poplar, NC and their homes. We start from the Poplar River Access parking lot (used by kayakers and rafters), following the railroad tracks 2.5 miles along the deepest and most scenic part of the Nolichucky River Gorge. If you are uncomfortable walking along RR tracks, this may not be the hike for you. It is, however, safe, in that there is ample warning and room the entire way to step off the tracks, if one of the infrequent trains passes us. We leave the tracks to climb a trail along Norris Branch to the east end of Lost Cove. We'll explore the remains of the Cove and have lunch there. Leave Long John Silver's at 9 NINE AM. Leader Josh Banks (334) 368-6596

11/11/23 A strenuous 9 mile hike from the Profile Trail to the Raven Rocks and back, with options to turn back (or read a book and wait) at Attic Window (8 mile). The Profile Trail is about 3.6 miles and 1775 ft climb. The Profile trail connects with the Grandfather Trail which is very rocky with many "small" ups and downs, and some permanent ladders and chains/ropes to help get over certain spots. This stretch of the Grandfather Trail offers endless spectacular views and the famous "chute" where perhaps a rock-slide a gazillion years ago created the steep notch that we will need to negotiate. There is a great water source at about 3.2 mile (Shanty Spring) in case you run out of water. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 EIGHT AM. If you wish to be met at Food City in Elizabethton**** at 8:15, contact leader Yong Li: 423-276-2720.

11/18/23 Very strenuous 12.8 mile in & out hike to Big Yellow Mountain. We climb the historic Overmountain Victory Trail from Hampton Creek Road to Yellow Mtn Gap, then take the AT north to a side trail. We follow this along the ridge of Big Yellow, then enter the bald area that is now part of the Big Yellow Mtn Preserve. Views from our lunch spot include the Road Highlands, Grandfather, Grandmother, Hawksbill, Tablerock and the Black Mountains. 3000'+ of climbing. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 EIGHT AM. If you wish to be met at Food City in Elizabethton**** at 8:20, contact leader John Treece 919-961-1560, john.treece@gmail.com

11/25/23 open

12/2/23 Strenuous 9.4 mile in & out AT hike between Wilbur Dam Rd and the Vandeventer Shelter. Total climbing is 3100'. Nice views through the bare trees from high above Watauga Lake as we follow the Iron Mtn ridge. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9 (NINE) AM. If you wish to be met at Food City in Elizabethton**** at 9:15, contact leader Jeff Bennett at 973-832-3090.

12/9/23 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* to leave at 9 NINE AM, or meet us at the parking pull-out at the start on Dry Creek Road.

12/16/23 Strenuous 8-mile loop hike on the northwest side of Holston Mountain. We start with a very steep, difficult climb of 1000' in less than a mile up the Flint Mill Trail to the scenic Flint Rock overlook, then take Holston Mountain Trail and Josiah Trail. We'll finish the loop on the closed Flatwoods Road. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9 NINE AM. If you wish to be met at the Elizabethton Food City**** at 9:20, contact leader Joel Zabel at 423-631-6385.

12/23/23 open

12/30/23 Moderate 7-mile loop on Cherokee Mountain, starting at Horse Cove Gap. The trail head is across Dry Creek Road from the ATV parking lot, 1.7 miles south of the head of Lone Oak Trail. We'll gradually ascend the southeast side of Cherokee Mountain on (what Jeff calls) Tadpole Trail (aka FS rd. 5352). The turn-around is directly under a power-line tower, giving an open view. On the return, we'll take an optional route that follows the ridgeline northeastward and includes a steep descent. Hike leader Jeff Miller (423-833-7889). Meet behind Long John Silvers* and leave at 9:00 NINE AM.

1/1/24 Happy 2024! Join us for this New Year's 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. After the hike, Jeff and Dana Miller (423-833-7889) are graciously hosting a potluck party at their house to celebrate. Their address is 1900 Eastwood Drive, JC.