

2024 Johnson City Hiking Schedule for Apr, May, Jun
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

4/6/24 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.

4/13/24 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.

4/20/24 Strenuous 9.5 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).

4/27/24 6 to 9 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. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9 (NINE) AM. Leader: Josh Banks (334) 368-6596.

5/4/24 Strenuous 10.5 mile loop hike on Holston Mtn from Hinkle Branch trailhead. We start our climb on Hinkle Branch trail (FS 60681), then continue up Low Gap trail and cross Panhandle Road at the old picnic/camping site. Next, we follow the Holston Mtn West trail around the NW side of Holston High Point to a lunch spot with an open east view toward Iron Mtn. We take Furnace, Griffith, and Rye Patch trails back to the start. 2500'+ climbing. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 (EIGHT) AM. If you would like to meet at Elizabethton Food City**** at 8:15, contact leader Josh Banks (334) 368-6596.

5/11/24 open

5/18/24 Difficult 9-mile hike in the Dennis Cove area. This hike is rated difficult mainly because of several creek crossings that guarantee wet feet. We'll drive 35 minutes to Dennis Cove Recreation Area and then hike Laurel Fork Trail 3.9 miles, gradually climbing 400+ feet to Upper Laurel Fork Falls (AKA Upper Dennis Cove Falls), enjoying Dennis Cove Falls (AKA Lower Laurel Fork Falls) and Frog Level along the way. We'll return to Frog Level and angle off to have lunch at the base of Firescald Branch Falls, an amazing series of cascades. After exploring Firescald Falls, we'll ascend Frog Level Rd to Dennis Cove Rd and then walk Dennis Cove Rd (AKA Laurel Fork Rd) 2 miles back to the vehicle. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 EIGHT AM. Leader: Jeff Miller (423-833-7889).

5/25/24 Strenuous 8.5 mile in & out hike from Rock Creek Rec Area. We'll hike up Rattlesnake Ridge Trail to Brandon's Bluff: a secluded rock ledge with a panoramic view for lunch. 2400' of climbing. Leave Long John Silver's* at 9 NINE AM. Leader: Yong Li (423-276-2720)

6/1/24 open

6/8/24 Strenuous 6.5 mile or longer loop hike on the northwest side of Linville Gorge. Some of this hike is very technical and rocky, but it offers up close views of the river down in the gorge and a spectacular view at Babel Tower. Leave Long John Silver's* at 8 EIGHT AM. If you wish to be met at the Elizabethton Food City**** at 8:15, contact leader Adam Bean at 443-756-7014

6/15/24 The Black Mtn Crest Test: to celebrate the summer solstice and the longest days of the year, the JCHC offers the chance to use that daylight for a personal challenge: doing an up and back hike on the Black Mtn Crest Trail. You can choose any turn around point to give you total distances between 9.2 miles with 3000' of climbing, and 23 miles with 9000'. The first 6 miles (and last 6 miles for any hike over 12 miles of this in & out) is a mix of good single and double track trail. The rest, and thus about half of the 23 mile version, is more technical and slow. If going 23, expect to use most or all the daylight. Anyone going over 16 miles must bring a headlamp or flashlight as a precaution. This hike offers spectacular views as we traverse the crest, much of which is over 6000'. If you are doing the 23 miler, water can be resupplied at the midpoint, Mt Mitchell, and ~4 miles before the finish. Your nutritional needs will be double to triple that of an average JCHC hike, but food can be purchased at Mt Mitchell. If you plan to do this hike, contact the leader, Joel Zabel (423-631-6385) at least 3 days prior so that carpooling can be arranged for those going different distances. Leave Long John Silver's* at the UNUSUALLY EARLY TIME OF 7 SEVEN AM.

6/22/24 Moderate to Strenuous 6.5 to 8 mile hike between Devil's Fork Gap and Rocky Fork. We begin the hike on the AT at Devil's Fork Gap and head south, passing Flint Mountain Shelter, and heading to Flint Mountain Gap. There, we take a steep side trail down to Rocky Fork State Park and the Flint Creek Trail which we follow to the Rocky Fork trail and the RFSP parking area. A side trip up to White House Cliffs Overlook is an option. Leader: Luke Carter 423-737-6428. Depart Long John Silvers* at 8 EIGHT AM.

6/29/24 open