

As we have hiked together in recent weeks and the crisis has intensified, members have discussed how our club should proceed. Our consensus: keep hiking but be REALLY careful and conscientious toward others. We concluded that hiking is one activity that can provide much needed benefits during this trying time IF we take proper precautions.

Conclusions and guidelines:

No formal schedule for April-May-June. We'll go week to week and adjust to virus conditions.

No carpooling. Everyone will drive themselves to the trailheads. We will pick hikes that have ample parking and are close to Johnson City.

Stay away from busy spots (e.g. Carvers Gap), instead favoring less trafficked areas. Avoid contact with shelters or obvious gathering spots (benches, fire rings, privies).

Practice VERY safe social distancing. Guidelines say six feet. We can double that and still enjoy each other's company. If we meet other hikers, we will take the initiative to step well off trail to let them pass.