

Blue Ridge Hiking Club - April-May-June 2016 Hikes

Saturday, April 2, Tanawha at Holloway Mtn. Rd. to Boone Fork Trail Loop Hike the Tanawha from Holloway Mtn. road east to the Boone Fork Trail, then on to Hebron Falls. To get to the top of the falls, hikers can rock-hop up or work your way up through the bushes along the water. After the Falls, finish Boone Fork loop back to the Tanawha and Holloway Mtn. Rd. Rated easy to moderate. 7 ¾ mi. round trip. No dogs. Call hike leader Bob Heath at 828-773-0471.

Monday, April 4: Bass Lake to Cone Manor loop. Meet at Bass Lake, off Rt. 221 just west of Blowing Rock, at lower parking area next to the lake at 9:30 AM. Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, April 6, A/T Watauga Dam Where: Us 19E/321 north to Hampton. Turn right on US 321/TN 67 for 3 miles, then turn into Shook Branch. Meet at Shook Branch to hike to Dam. About 4 miles. Moderate. No dogs. Hike leader, Carol Ann Mitchell 423-772-4380 or cmitchell21@gmail.com

Saturday, April 9, Linville Falls Hike: Two main hiking trails lead to 6 views of Linville Falls. Moderate to strenuous. Take the BRP south to MP 316.4, turning left onto Spur Rd. Follow road ~1 mile to Visitor's Center, which will be closed this time of year. Bring hiking poles, a snack or lunch and enough water to last 2 or 3 hours, depending on how many trails we decide to do. Option to park at Beacon Heights Overlook, MP 305 and carpool the rest of the way. No dogs. Call or email hike leader Eva Rand: 301-758-4375, twowheels28@hotmail.com.

Monday, April 11: The Maze and Apple Barn at Cone Manor. Meet at Bass Lake lower parking area, off Rt. 221 just west of Blowing Rock at 9:30 AM. Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, April 13, Profile Trail to Shanty Spring Wildflower hike. The scenic lower part of the trail is moderate, followed by a fairly steep uphill climb up for another 2 miles. Total hike 5.4 miles. Bring a lunch, water and your wildflower book and cameras. We will use the opportunities to look up flowers to catch our breath on the way up and have lunch at Shanty Springs. Moderate to strenuous. Don't plan to be back early. No dogs. Call hike leader Juin Adams for details at 828-295-9607.

Saturday, April 16, Upper Creek Falls & Hawksbill Mountain. Upper Creek Falls Loop switchbacks down to the creek just above the top of the falls and crosses. The trail then descends along the falls and crosses again near the bottom of the falls. Moderately difficult 1.6 mile loop. We will then drive to the Hawksbill Mtn. trailhead. The 1.8 mi. round trip hike to the summit of Hawksbill Mtn. (elev. 4009') has panoramic views of Linville Gorge. Strenuous with 670' elevation gain. Meet at Christa's on 181 at 10:00 and carpool to trailhead. No dogs. Call hike leader Bob Heinrich at 828 733-9174.

Monday, April 18: Rich Mountain: Meet at Trout Lake parking lot at 9:30 AM. (1st exit left off Parkway just south of Cone Manor onto Rt. 221 and then take an immediate right onto Shull's Mill Rd going under parkway). Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, April 20 Little Lost Cove Cliffs & North Harper Creek Waterfalls Approx. 5 miles with 4 to 5 rock hopping water crossings. Some steep uphill climbs. Moderate to strenuous. No dogs. Meet at Linville Land Harbor recreation Building parking lot. No dogs permitted. Contact hike leader, Bob Heinrich for details, 828-733-9174

Saturday, April 23, Crabtree Falls. The hike is located at Crabtree Meadows Campground, mi. 339.5 on the BRP. It's a loop hike, about 4 mi., rated moderate to strenuous. The hike begins with a quick descent to view a 70 foot waterfall. From there, we will go up through some rocky sections, roots and bridges over wet areas, looping back to the trailhead. Bring water and hiking sticks. Nice hardwoods, and wildflowers could be present as well.

For those wanting to, we can eat lunch at Mountain View Restaurant. No dogs. Call hike leader Susan Smith at 828-675-1827.

Monday, April 25: Price Lake plus. Meet at Boat ramp parking area, BRP MP 297 at 9:30 AM. Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, April 27, Lost Cove Creek 7 miles, 5 hours. This is a loop trail starting with a moderate climb to the top of the ridge then a steep descent down to Hunt Fish Falls and a large swimming pool where we have lunch. The return has several climbs & follows several tributaries of Lost Creek where there are falls, cascades and swimming holes. 6-8 water crossings. This beautiful hike is a favorite as it affords the most variety. No dogs allowed. Meet at Linville land harbor recreation building parking lot. Call Bob Heinrich at 828-733-9174 for details.

Saturday, April 30, Glen Burney: The trail starts at Annie Cannon Gardens parking lot on Laurel Lane in Blowing Rock. The trail meanders down through a gorge past 3 waterfalls on the New Years Creek. It is 3.2 miles total. Easy going down but the 700 foot elevation change is a good workout coming back up. No dogs. Call hike leader Skip Rackmill at 828-355-9303.

Monday, May 2: Green Knob Trail: Meet at Sims Pond Overlook, BRP MP 295.9 at 9:30 AM. Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, May 4, Mt Jefferson We will hike new and old trails to the summit of Mt Jefferson and down. Weather permitting we will hike all the trails of Mt Jefferson Natural area approximately 6 plus miles, moderate terrain. It may be chillier and windy on top: wear appropriate clothing. Meet at the ranger station at 10 a.m. No dogs. Contact hike leader Allmuth "Curly" Perzel 336-982-8591

Saturday, May 7, AT Trail at Shook Branch to Watauga Dam: Approximately 4 miles round trip; beautiful, will see wildflowers and unique rock formations. No dogs. Carol Ann Mitchell, hike leader. 423-772-4280 or camitchell21@gmail.com.

Monday, May 9: Flat Top Observation Tower. Meet in front of the Carriage House by Cone Manor, BRP MP 294.1 at 9:30 AM. Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, May 11, Beech Mountain Upper and Lower Pond Creek Nice hike along a beautiful creek with rapids and waterfalls. Very scenic. Views of the backyards of nicely landscaped homes. The first half of this trail is very rugged, slippery, and is NOT recommended for inexperienced hikers. It's 4 miles out and back with about a 689 foot elevation change. We will start at the bottom and get the climb over early. Optional Lunch at Fred's Old Country Store on Beech Mountain after the hike. Meet in the Banner Elk park in the lot next to Bank of America (Rt 194) at 9:00 sharp for car pooling. No dogs. Bill Barksdale, rebelhiker1@gmail.com, 828-348-9793

Saturday, May 14, Beacon Heights to Rough Ridge: 5.1 mi. rated moderate (with some rough, rocky areas). Hike through one of the most spectacular sections of the Tanawha Trail. Stop over at the Viaduct Visitor Center, then on to Rough Ridge. We will spot cars at the Beacon Heights parking area. Meet at Rough Ridge Parking. No dogs. Call hike leader Bob Heath at 828-773-0471.

Monday, May 16: Old John's River Road to Boone Fork. Meet at Sim's Pond Overlook, BRP MP 295.9 at 9:30 AM. Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, May 18, Elk River Falls and Jones Falls Two beautiful falls on the same hike. The trailhead begins at the Elk River Falls and follows the NC/TN line along the river. We will then climb up to the AT and follow

the AT South to a side trail to Jones Falls. Both falls are spectacular; a "must see" hike. Total of 5 moderate (out and back) miles with one easy creek crossing. Meet in the Banner Elk park in the lot next to Bank of America (RT 194) at 9:00 sharp for car pooling; or at the trail head outside of Elk Park at 9:30. No dogs. Hike leader: Bill Barksdale, rebelhiker1@gmail.com, 828-348-9793

Saturday, May 21, Shortoff Mountain. Starting from Wolf Pit Road above Lake James the trail gains 1,321 feet in elevation. The first mile of the hike is a strenuous, rocky trail with switchbacks, but safe and easy to follow with plenty of places to rest with sweeping views of Lake James. 3/4 of a mile up, the Mountain to Sea Trail merges with the trail. The last 1.25 miles is a mostly level trail across the broad summit at 2883 feet, passing by a natural pond (a rare sight on our mountain tops) and plenty of panoramic views. We'll lunch at a rock outcropping with the best view of Table Rock mountain and the Linville Gorge. Bring a lunch, water, long pants and a stick. No dogs. Total hike 4.5 miles. Moderate to strenuous. For spectacular photos and preview go to http://www.romanticasheville.com/shortoff_mountain.htm#sthash.o5V4sFk7.dpuf Call hike leader Juin Adams at 828-295-9607.

Monday, May 23: Mountains-to-Sea Trail: Meet at the Raven Rock Overlook, hiking south, BRP MP 289.5. at 9:30 AM. Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, May 25, Virginia Creeper Trail Bike Ride - an all day event. The 17 mile section of the Trail from Whitetop Station to Damascus is on the old Norfolk Western Railroad Line that follows Laurel Creek through the Jefferson National Forest. We will rent bikes at JC's in Damascus and shuttle to the top of the mountain. Lunch at the Creeper Trail Cafe in Taylor Valley about 11 miles down the trail or bring your own lunch. Contact Susan to make your reservations early. Leader: Susan Moore, H (828)733-5748; W (828)733-1354.

Saturday, May 28, Flat Rock and Story Teller Rock: From Boone Fork Parking area (Milepost 299.9) on the BRP the hike will take the Tanawha to Daniel Boone Scout up to Flat Rock and then down the Cragway and the Nuwati Trail to Storyteller Rock. They afford beautiful vistas of the Boone Bowl and beyond. Approx. 7 mi., some parts strenuous and rocky. No dogs. Call hike leader Skip Rackmill at 828-355-9303.

Monday, May 30: Tanawha Trail to Holloway Mountain Road. Meet at boat ramp parking at Price Lake, BRP MP 297 at 9:30 AM. Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, June 1, Valle Crucis Trails, from the Valle Crucis Conference Center to Orchard Creek Falls and beyond. Easy to moderate hike to beautiful waterfall and then hike up to ridge top. No dogs. Contact hike leader Paul Dickenson at dckensp@comcast.net or 828-963-6935

Saturday, June 4, Grayson Highlands: Mt. Rogers trail: Massey Gap parking lot to Thomas Knob shelter on the AT. About 7 miles, rated moderate. No dogs. Call hike leader Tom Goodwin at 336-877-2449 or tom_goodwin@unc.edu

Monday, June 6: Old John's River Road to Price Lake. Meet at Sim's Pond Overlook, BRP MP 295.9 at 9:30 AM. Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, June 8, Holloway Mtn Rd parking lot to Cold Prong. Nice hike along the Tanawa Trail. Some ups and downs but moderate. No dogs. Contact Roger Bodo for details at 828-260-2019 or bodoira@gmail.com

Saturday, June 11, Quarterly Meeting, 11:00 AM Meet with the hiking group for food and fellowship. Outdoors at the Linville Land Harbor Covered Pavilion. Bring a dish to share. No need to reserve. Host: Arlene Weinsier, arlene956@gmail.com

Monday, June 13: Carriage House to Old Catawba Rd. Meet in front of the Carriage House by Cone Manor, BRP MP 294.1 at 9:30 AM. Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, June 15, Roan Mountain Carvers Gap to Grassy Bald 6 miles, 4 hours. Rated: moderate/strenuous. Starts at the Carvers Gap parking area which is on the NC/TN line at the top of NC 261 (143 on the TN side.) Spectacular 360 degree views along part of the AT that crosses the bald. Great valley views from Grassy Ridge. Trail is rocky with 3 steep slopes to climb in each direction to 5,000 ft. No dogs. Contact hike leader Carol Ann Mitchell at 423-772-4380 or camitchell21@gmail.com

Saturday, June 18, Roan Mtn. Visitor Center. to Raven Rocks & Roan Mtn. State Park Campground: Approximately 4 miles, parts of trail narrow, steep. Moderate to strenuous. If not hiked out, we can add 3 miles with Fred Behrend Trail in the campground. No dogs. Carol Ann Mitchell Hike leader. 423-772-4280 or camitchell21@gmail.com.

Monday, June 20: Mountains-to-Sea Trail to 321. Meet at Thunder Hill Overlook, first overlook on BRP north of 321, MP 290.4 at 9:30 AM. Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, June 22, Mountains-to-Sea Trail, from Aho Gap to Goshen Creek, Out and back along the Mountains-to-Sea trail. Hopefully, still some wildflowers. Trail meanders through dense rhododendron forests, over small water crossings to Goshen Creek. About 5 miles round trip. Easy to moderate. No dogs. Contact hike leader, Pam Hoffman, 828-262-9779.

Saturday, June 25 , Profile Trail to Calloway Peak: 7 miles, 5 hrs. Total elevation gain 2,300 ft. The scenic lower part of the trail is moderate, then there is a steady 3.4 mile uphill climb with rocky terrain near Shanty Springs to Calloway Peak where there are 360 degree vistas at 5,946' elevation. Rocky; rated strenuous - experienced hikers only. 3 easy ladders. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. Hiking sticks are suggested. No dogs; call hike leader Bob Heath at 828-773-0471.

Monday, June 27: Trout Lake to Carriage House: Meet at Trout Lake parking lot at 9:30 AM. (1st exit left off Parkway just south of Cone Manor going to Rt. 221 and then take an immediate right, a U turn, onto Shull's Mill Rd going under parkway). Meet at the Trout Lake parking lot. Relaxed pace. Done by noon. No dogs.

Wednesday, June 29th, Bear Wallow to Raven Rocks to Doe River Wallow at Roan Mountain also known as the Fred Behrend Trail. 2.8 miles of steady ascent and descent with some switchbacks running along the Doe River in places. Rated: easy to moderate. Roan Mtn State Park is at Rt 143 off of Rt 19E. 7 miles into the park to trail head. No dogs. Contact Carol Ann Mitchell at 423-772- 4380 or camitchell21@gmail.com