

# Mountain High Hikers Newsflash September 1, 2009

## One Club, Many Parts

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### **Moon Walk – Different Location**

Here is this month's moon hike/walk information for MHH members...note the different location.

DATE: Thursday, September 3rd.

TIME: 7:45 p.m.

LOCATION: **MEEKS PARK IN BLAIRSVILLE**

Please park near the first pavillion on the left as you enter the park.

The walk is approximately 3 miles long.

Questions? call Gary and Dorothy Thompson (828) 389-4706

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### **From George Jurand, Hike Planner Coordinator**

After much deliberation and discussion, we have updated the "Hiking Guidelines for Members and Guests", as well as created a new "Guidelines for Hike Leaders". The Guidance for Members and Guests has been updated to provide clearer guidance to our membership during our club activities, and the Guidelines for Hike Leaders was created because none had existed and there was a real need to provide hike leaders with some definitive guidance about what to do in preparing for and leading hikes. We hope that these will be helpful to our membership. As always, if there are suggestions for improvement, please let me know."

Copies can be viewed and downloaded from the MHH website: [www.mountainhighhikers.org](http://www.mountainhighhikers.org)

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### **Trail Maintenance Plans from John Quinlan:**

The Trail Maintenance Plan for September is to work in NC on the Chunky Gal Trail on Thursday, 3 Sep and then in GA on Thursday, 17 Sep in the Cooper's Creek area. All start times are still 0745 until 1 Nov 09 when the time changes."

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## Snorkle/Hike/Picnic = Fun

Monday's Social Event, majestically coordinated by team Richard and Pam, was great fun. We had around 20 members attend! After a long drive and a short hike, we got down to business with FOOD—lots of it. Then after a visit to the changing tent (the Sullivan's think of everything) we jumped into the river to view the fish. Wish we had an underwater camera as you would not believe all the fish. Capture a bit of our day by viewing the following by copying and pasting.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbHPbpILKzk>

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## Mountain Life Festival

Saturday, September 19

The Mountain Farm Museum at Oconaluftee will come alive with the sound of Appalachian music as the days of yesteryear bring you home to a world where mountain residents spent their not-so-idle days making apple butter and cider, sorghum, hominy, lye soap and more.

Living history demonstrations will provide visitors with a glimpse into the past... into the simple, yet not so simple, world of the stalwart folks who called these mountains "home".



Exhibits may include corn husk dolls, quilts, broom-making, old toys and games, heritage apples, food preservation, berry baskets, home remedies and wildcrafting. With the Fall harvest approaching don't be surprised to find the gardens dressed in an array of orange pumpkins and sorghum canes waiting to be turned into molasses.

Come... join in the celebration! The Mountain Farm Museum is at Oconaluftee, 2 miles north of Cherokee, NC, on U.S. 441.

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## **MHH Bike Trip on the Silver Comet Trail, Wed. September 30th**

**We will do a 20 mile bike trip on the Silver Comet Trail to the west of Atlanta in Paulding County. Meeting time will be 8 am at the Marathon gas station at Hwy. 515/ 60. We should be back about 6pm.**

**We will begin at the Rambo Rd. Trailhead (mile marker 22.2) and bike to the Hiram Trailhead (MM 14.7) where we will have lunch at a restaurant. We will then bike past the Rambo Rd. Trailhead about 0.7 miles to travel over the Pumpkinvine Trestle and return back to the cars. Side trips will make the trip about 20 miles long. The path is paved with no more than a 2% grade.**

Here is the write-up:

Rambo Road Trailhead is at mile marker 22.2 on the Silver Comet Trail, has paved parking, a porta-toilet, picnic tables, no water, and is 0.7 miles east of the Pumpkinvine Trestle.

Built in 1901, the Pumpkinvine Trestle is over 750 feet long, and rises 126 feet over Pumpkinvine Creek. The trestle was restored in 1999, and opened for Silver Comet use in 2000. The Pumpkinvine Trestle is located less than a mile west of the Rambo Road Trailhead in Dallas, Georgia.

One of the most remote areas of the Silver Comet is west of the Pumpkinvine Trestle, and travels through parts of the Paulding Wildlife Management Area. The Paulding Forest is over 25,000 acres, and areas are open to the public.

Hiram Trailhead is at mile marker 14.7 on the Silver Comet Trail, and has good parking. Homer Leggett Park is next to the trailhead and has nice restrooms, water, covered picnic tables, and a playground. An original train caboose is located in the trailhead parking lot, and serves as a Sheriff station for the deputies that patrol the trail.

The trailhead is located in the city of [Hiram](#). The large Thomas Concrete plant is east of the Hiram Trailhead, and you can see extensive building materials and equipment from both sides of the Silver Comet Trail.

There's plenty of near-by shopping including a Walmart, gas stations, grocery stores, restaurants, and banks.

**Bring water, lunch money, sunscreen, hat and or helmet. Because of the distance, those choosing to ride with others should expect to donate about \$15 per person to help with gas expenses.**

**Anyone needing a bike can contact me and I will see if we can borrow one for you.**

**RSVP to Pam Sullivan at 706-374-5281, cell 478-361-1369.**

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This just in from Forest Fire Lookout Association:

## [USFS Receives \\$734,000 Stimulus Funding for Lookout Tower Restorations in North Carolina](#)



The North Carolina chapter of the FFLA is excited to announce that the USFS has been allocated \$734,000 for the restoration of CCC shelters and lookout towers on national forests in North Carolina. This federal stimulus money, received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is the largest allocation of funding for fire tower restorations ever in North Carolina.

While specific projects are still being itemized, it is expected that partial or complete rehabilitation of eight lookout towers in the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests may be included. These include: Joanna Bald, Albert Mountain, Panther Top, Rich Mountain, Camp Creek Bald, Fryingpan Mountain, and Green Knob. Wayah Bald is the only specific tower mentioned in the USFS report and will receive substantial rehabilitation of its recently deteriorated stonework.

While this funding allocation will be shared with other CCC built structures such as trail shelters on the Appalachian Trail & in the Croatan National Forest as well as the Wilson Lick Ranger Station near Wayah Bald, the report extensively itemizes repairs to lookout towers including the replacement or rehabilitation of tower roofs, doors, windows, screens, stairs, floors, cabs and structure. Of particular importance is the mention of improving safety for visitors, which may allow for the opportunity of lookout access dates for hikers in the future to those towers that are currently locked.

More specific information regarding future USFS lookout tower restorations in western North Carolina will be posted here as it becomes available.

<http://nclookouts.blogspot.com/>

