

Hike Flash – January 18, 2015

Welcome to new OMH members Sharon Moore, Kristianna Pittenger, Patti Willits, Lance Sullenberger, Marth Morris, Aaron & Elizabeth Christensen, Beth & Craig Annen and Karen & Dan Kesselring.

Thursday, January 22, 2015 Little Blakely Outer Rim (15.5 miles with options for shorter distances / Moderate)

Hike Organizer: Marilyn Hall 254-760-2426 mjhall74@gmail.com

Meet at: Lake Ouachita State Park (LOSP) in parking lot behind Visitor Center at **8:30 am**. Parking at Trail Head is limited so we will combine hikers into only needed vehicles. The drive from Visitor Center to TH is about 5 miles on gravel roads.

Carpools:

Hot Springs – **8:00am** Sutherlands parking lot, 1831 Albert Park Rd (front of lot facing Albert Pick)(ride share \$3)

Hot Springs Village – **8:00am** West Gate/Cordoba Center parking lot (ride share \$2)

LOSP Visitor Center – **8:30am** park behind Visitor Center (ride share \$1)

Directions:

From Hot Springs - west on Hwy 270, turn right onto Hwy 227 & follow to LOSP

From Hot Springs Village - north on Hwy 7, turn left onto Hwy 192, turn right onto Hwy 227 & follow to LOSP

Details:

Are you up for a challenge? This hike offers hikers the opportunity to hike 15.5 miles combining the outer rim of all five loops of the Little Blakely Trail System. Along the trail, hikers will see spectacular views of beautiful Lake Ouachita, stately old-growth pines & hardwoods and unique rock formations. Options will be available to hike a shorter distance by not hiking all five loops (5.5, 8.8, 10.4, or 13.2).

Let the hike organizer know the distance you plan to hike so carpools can be organized accordingly. Also, indicate if you are willing to drive from Visitor Center to TH.

We plan to have a warming fire at the trail head. There will be hot cocoa & cider and fixings for s'mores. Bring a folding camp chair to enjoy sitting around the fire.

Bring: Plenty of water, good hiking boots/shoes, trail lunch, snacks, hiking sticks (optional) and hunter orange (archery season still open).

Should be back: Around 5:30/6:00 pm (or earlier if you hike a shorter distance)

Saturday, January 24, 2015 Lake Ouachita Vista Trail Flex Hike (5 or 7 or 2 Miles, Moderate to Easy)

Hike Leader: Cliff Harrison, 501-915-8382, cliffh2000@hotmail.com

Carpools:

Hot Springs Village: 8:00 a.m. – Cordoba Center Parking Lot, West Gate (Ride share \$4)

Hot Springs: 8:30 a.m. - Sutherlands (Ride share \$3)

Meet at: 9:15 a.m. - Hickory Nut Mountain Trailhead

Bring: Water, good boots, hiking sticks, trail snacks.

Details:

This flex hike will start at Hickory Nut Mountain and go to the Pipe Spring (5 miles) or Crystal Springs (7 miles). Hiking East-to-West, this hike (mostly down-hill) provides great views, excellent trail conditions, and a distance to match every hiker's level. Ouachita Mountain Hikers who want an easier taste of the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail can stick with the Shuttle Crew, headed up by Crusty the Shuttler, and hike out and back from the Crystal Springs pickup point.

Directions to Trailhead: West on Hwy 270 about 21 miles to Hickory Nut Mountain Road (dirt/gravel road). Turn North (right) and continue about 4 miles, then left into the day use area at the top of the mountain. [Note: Keep left where Walnut Fork Road splits off of Hickory Nut Mountain Road, a mile or so in from 270.]

Shuttle Drivers needed at trail head. Cars coming from HS and HSV should be as full as comfort allows.

Should be back by: Mid-afternoon

See You on the Trails,
Ouachita Mountain Hikers