

Ouachita Mountain Hikers (www.omhikers.net)

Hike Flash – October 8, 2017

What's New on the Web Site?

As always, the most recent Hike Flash in both desktop and mobile formats may be found under the **Current Activities** tab.

Note: To view the web site, just click this link: www.omhikers.net.

Welcome New Members...

Martin Nelson.

Hike Reports? What Hike Reports?

Hike leaders are encouraged to make a report after each hike that is led. This can be done easily and quickly by using the *Hike Report Form* [GOOGLE](#) found under the **Admin** tab on the website. The hike leader is lead through a series of questions to document the hike for future hike leaders and hikers, Easy-peasy!

So, you ask, what happens to these reports? In the past the reports were used to update our *Trails We Hike* database, found under the **Hikers Reference** tab on the website. This practice was ended a few years ago. The database is still quite valuable to hike leaders and hikers alike, but recent information is not in the database. HOWEVER, you can now read the contents of recent hike reports under *Hike Flash History/Hike Reports* also under the **Hiker's Reference** tab on the website. There is a page for each hiking season with links to the hike flash for each hike and a link to a spreadsheet containing information entered on the hike report form for these hikes. We have all hike flashes available on the web site beginning with the Spring of 2015 (2 ½ years!). We have hike reports beginning with the Spring of 2016 (1 ½ years!). If you are planning to lead a hike or take a hike, you can get the lowdown from these web site resources!

Thursday, October 12, 2017 - VISTA TRAIL DENBY POINT (Moderate) – 7.5/8 miles

HIKE LEADER: Tom Cornelius, Cell: 901-485-1563 tomcornelius@cablelynx.com

MEET AT: Vista Trailhead at Denby Pointe. Traveling west on Hwy. 270, turn right on Shangri-La Road, which is about 30 miles west of Hwy 270/Hwy 227 intersection. Then travel about 100 ft and turn left on old Hwy 270. Then proceed about 4/10 mile to the parking area on right. This trail actually has 2 trailheads. Just drive as far as the road allows to the 2nd trailhead. Meet at 9:00 am.

CARPOOL: Hot Springs Village: 8:00 am at West Gate/Century 21 parking lot – Carpool donation is \$6.00. **Hot Springs:** 8:15 am at Sutherland’s Parking Lot (Highway 270 West) – Carpool Donation is \$3.00.

DIRECTIONS FROM HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE (West Gate): From West Gate, turn right & drive north on Hwy 7 and travel a few miles and turn west (left) on Hwy 192 or Strawberry Road (Home Plate Restaurant at this intersection) and travel about 10 miles. Then turn left at intersection of Hwy 227 & travel towards Hot Springs and turn right or west on Hwy. 270 – then continue about 30 miles and turn right on Shangri-La Road. Then drive 100 ft and turn left on old Hwy 270 and drive about 4/10 mile to the end of the road. Note there are public bathrooms in ADA park on the left before you get to the trailhead.

DIRECTIONS FROM HOT SPRINGS (SUTHERLANDS PARKING LOT): Drive west on Hwy 270 (Albert Pike) about 30 miles and turn right on Shangri-La road. Then, make an almost immediate left on old Hwy 270. Drive to the end. Note there are public bathrooms on the left side in the ADA park before you get to the trailhead.

BRING: Plenty of water, hiking sticks, hiking boots/shoes, lunch, snacks, insect repellent

HIKE DETAILS: Denby Pointe is the beginning of the Vista Trail and is at the far western end of the trail. The trailhead area includes plenty of parking space. This is a good hike for beginning Thursday hikers. It has the length of a Thursday hike without the difficult climbs. I’ve hiked a couple of times with our Tuesday group and it is also very clean. We will take in a portion of the Tompkins Bend loop with beautiful views of Lake Ouachita Lake. At about 3.5/4 miles, we will turn around and hike back to Denby Pointe, thus about a 7.5-8 mile hike.

Saturday, October 14, 2017 – Trail Maintenance – Hot Springs National Park

Hike Leader: Bill Lammers (501-339-1755; bclammers84@gmail.com)

Carpool: Hot Springs Village: 8:30 a.m. at West Gate/Century 21 parking lot (Ride share is \$2.00). Carpooling is encouraged because of limited parking at the trailhead.

Meet At: 9:00am – Cedar Glades trailhead on the Sunset Trail (on Cedar Glades Rd)

Directions: From the West Gate, turn south (left) on Hwy 7 and continue on Hwy 7 until the intersection with Whittington Ave. across from Fat Jack’s restaurant. Veer right onto Whittington Ave

and take an immediate right turn onto Cedar St. Follow Cedar St. a few blocks until it intersects with Cedar Glades Rd. Veer right onto Cedar Glades Rd. Follow Cedar Glades Rd. to the top of the hill and the trailhead. There is parking on the right side with room for about 5 vehicles.

Details: We will be working to install 3 water bar drainages and smooth the tread on the rocky section of the Sunset trail that rises up the ridge immediately across the street from the trailhead parking. At 11:30, we will pack up our tools and find someplace to eat lunch.

Bring: Work glove, water, snacks, and insect repellent. Bring any tools you have for working on trail tread, including shovel, hoe, pick, Pulaski, mattock, trail rake, and empty 5-gallon buckets for moving stone.

Should be back by: 1:00 p.m.

October 27 -29, 2017 FoOT Fall Maintenance Event – YOU are invited to help!

Friends of the Ouachita Trail's completion of the Ouachita Trail shelter system last year marked the end of an amazing three and a half years of effort to add this enhancement to the trail.

FoOT is planning the largest trail maintenance event ever on the Ouachita Trail, October 27th, 28th, and 29th. FoOT volunteers will carry out a major effort on the west end of the OT. The base of operations will be the Forest Service facility at the Cedar Lake Recreation Area. Cedar Lake is located 12 miles south of Heavener, Oklahoma and 40 miles west of Mena, Arkansas. Access is off Holson Valley Road, which goes west off Highway 270.

FoOT will be using the equestrian camping area and its pavilion. All provided meals will be at this pavilion. There are a lot of spaces for dry camping and tents. Showers and restrooms are available. Adjacent to this area is the Sandy Beach Camping loop, which will have spaces available for those needing electric and water hookups. These sites will be available at no cost to the volunteers. Accommodations will be available Thursday through Sunday.

Breakfast will be provided by FoOT on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings at 7:30 a.m. Dinner on Friday and Saturday night will also be provided at 5:30 p.m. Drinks and eating utensils will be provided. Volunteers will need to bring their own trail food for lunch.

Make plans to be involved in this special event. Join us for just 1 or 2 days if your schedule does not work for the entire time. For planning of the food, accommodations, and work teams, please let us know by no later than October 15th of your plans to attend and what accommodations you will need.

There are motels in Heavener and cabins available at Big Cedar if you would rather go that route.

We hope to work on several miles of trail but we want the time to be full of fun and a chance to build

the FoOT team. On Saturday night, FoOT will have its brief annual meeting after the evening meal.

It will be a great time to be out on the OT with the fall weather and the fall colors at their peak. Join with other volunteers for a special time in the Ouachita Mountains.

Bo Lea, FoOT President

501-622-8809

Bolea66@Gmail.com

Important notice about your OMH annual dues – They're due!

Annual club dues correspond with our hiking year. Dues for the 2017-2018 season are now due. If you have not already paid them, you can either pay at the Welcome Back Hike/Picnic or mail them to Ouachita Mountain Hikers, P.O. Box 371, Hot Springs AR 71902. Dues are still only \$5 per person per year or \$50 per person for a lifetime membership (and you'll never have to worry about them again).

We need a few good...

...Hike Leaders! If you are a regular hiker or aspire to be, we need for you to volunteer to be a Hike Leader. It's some work, but you will really get to dig a bit deeper into hiking in general and the wonderful hiking opportunities in Arkansas. You may want to start with Saturday hikes to get your feet wet (which can happen when you're hiking). Saturday Hike Leaders may want to move to Thursdays. If you have an interest please contact Hike Chair, Dave Tedrahn. He can team you up with an experienced Hike leader, if you'd like, to help select and plan your first hike.

Photos needed!

Please Email your photos from hikes to both our Historian, Ernie Weidenberger ernjac@gmail.com and Web Master, Tom Calhoun tom.calhoun3@gmail.com for inclusion in the yearbook and the photo gallery on the web site, respectively.

***See You on the Trails,
Ouachita Mountain Hikers***