

Ouachita Mountain Hikers

(www.omhikers.net)

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Hike Flash – December 3, 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. You will also find the Printable Spring 2018 Hike Schedule under the **Current Activities** tab. Under the **Hiker's Reference** tab you will find a new entry entitled *Hiker's Etiquette*. Both of these items are also attached to this document. Please take some time to read these.

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

Welcome New Members...

Patricia Wright and Cheryl Childers.

Thursday, December 7, 2017 - Ouachita Trail (10.2 miles/Difficult); Hwy 9 – Hwy 10 (mm191.8 – 202)

SHUTTLE DRIVERS NEEDED (20 miles of paved highway)

Hike Leader: Joy Linker 501-915-8066, joyfullymovin@gmail.com

Carpools: Hot Springs – 7:45 am DeSoto Park/Hwy 7. Ride share - \$7. HSV – 8:00 am East Gate/ Tanner's Parking lot. Ride share - \$6

Meet at: 8:30 at the Hwy 9 Trailhead. Please notify hike leader if you are **NOT** carpooling from HS or HSV and plan to meet at TH.

Directions: From HS/HSV, drive east on AR-5 to Crow's Corner (Jct. of Hwy 5 & Hwy 9); turn left onto AR-9 and go north approx. 18 miles. Hwy-9 trailhead parking area is on your right. From Little Rock, drive west on Hwy-10 to Williams Jct (Jct of Hwy-10 & Hwy-9); turn left onto Hwy-9 and go south approx. 2-1/2 miles. Hwy-9 trailhead parking area is on your left.

Details: Most of this OT section is outside of the Ouachita National Forest and will be through private lands belonging to timber companies and Central AR Water. Experience a little bit of everything from the typical up and down over the hills, across rocky drainage areas, past rocky bluffs and outcroppings above the Maumelle River and some bushwhacking from non-maintained sections of trail. The OT eventually drops down to low lying bottom land along the Maumelle River. WE WILL ALL STAY TOGETHER DUE TO HUNTERS/TRAIL MARKINGS. There are **NO** facilities at trail heads.

Bring: Water, good hiking boots/shoes, snacks, trail lunch, hiking sticks, bug spray & first aid kit, long pants due to grassy areas.

Should be back: By late afternoon.

Jeanie Calhoun will be completing the entire OT trail this day with a big **celebration** at the campground on HWY 10 at the finish.

As a reminder, **hunting season** is upon us and will continue in one form or another throughout the rest of the season. **WEAR YOUR ORANGE!**

Saturday, December 9, 2017 - Pinnacle Mountain (4.5 miles/moderately difficult)

Hike Leader: Debbie VanVeghel, cell 501-

655-6625, dvanveghel@hotmail.com

Carpool: Hot Springs: 7:45 am at DeSoto Park/Hwy 7 – Ride share \$9.00. Hot Springs Village: 8:00 am at East Gate/Hwy 5 (In front of old Cranford's store) – Ride share \$8.00.

Meet at: 9:15 am at West Summit Trailhead, Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Once you turn off Hwy 10 onto Hwy 300, go 2 miles and turn right to West Summit Trailhead—watch for sign. (The turn-off is 1 mile before you get to the road that takes you to the Visitor's Center.) *Meet near the middle of the picnic area, across from rest rooms.*

Directions: From HSV East Gate head East on Hwy 5; turn LEFT at Crow's Corner onto Hwy 9; drive North to Hwy 10 and turn RIGHT on Hwy 10; turn LEFT on Hwy 300 (sign for Pinnacle Mt). Entrance to West Summit TH is 2 miles down Hwy 300 on RIGHT side.

Alternative Directions: Drive East on Hwy 5 to I-30 and head East on I-30 to I-430. Take Exit 129, bearing RIGHT onto I-430. Take Exit 9 off of I-430 to Hwy 10; then west 7 miles to Hwy 300; turn RIGHT and go 2 miles north to West Summit TH/Pavilion entrance.

Details: We will hike a counter clockwise loop on the Base Trail from the picnic area at the West Summit Trailhead – this section of trail is 3 miles, which includes a ½ mile portion of the Ouachita Trail. Sections of this trail are mixed with dirt trail, loose rocky areas along with fallen leaves over trail. We will then hike up the West Summit Trail to the top and back down. The upper portion of this trail is a short, steep climb to the top of Pinnacle Mt but this section takes some good balance and navigating following marked rocks as we climb over rocks and boulders to the Summit. Reaching the top will afford you spectacular views of Lake Maumelle, the Arkansas River Valley, the Ouachita Mountains and west Little Rock. This section of hike is not good for anyone with bad hips, knees or feet; however, you could hike the Base Trail and opt out of climbing to the Summit. The Kingfisher Trail is an easy ½ mile paved trail located just behind the picnic/parking area by the West Summit TH for anyone interested in getting in a few more miles.

Bring: Good hiking boots/shoes, water, trail snacks, first aid kit. Hiking poles highly recommended for anyone hiking up to Summit

Should **be back by:** Early Afternoon.

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***