



## 2020 TRACE NOTES

Helpful information for your adventure  
on Section 10 of the Hiker Challenge.

Start Point— Blue Heron Trail Head 29 Miles

End Point — Divide Rd BSF Trail Head

**WEATHER DECISION** Weather decision will be made on Friday afternoon by 2 P.M. If you do not hear of a change, via Facebook or Twitter or email, then come on.



### Historic Communities, Beautiful Gap Overlooks, Cold Streams

#### Along Section 10 of 2020 Hiker Challenge

This section begins at the Tipple Bridge parking lot where you will climb up and cross this historic bridge and leave the historic Blue Heron mining community. One last pic and then left at the end of the bridge and onto the Sheltowee—Ky Trail. The hike takes you past two gaps worth stopping to see as they give you an amazing view of the valley below and the mining community. Then its on down the Kentucky trail past steams with strange names like “Difficulty”. Discount that some bridge may be out along the way but you can drop into the creek and get back out and keep on hiking. Plenty of woods for those who want to just make camp where they get tired. Please remember to secure your food as this is bear country. A permit is require to overnight camp in the Big South Fork. If you are hiking with the STA Hiker Challenge the permit has been purchased for you. Ledbetter trail head is a sign that you are closing in on Peter’s Mountain but be prepared as you soon are back in the woods and down to the river before climbing back out to Divide Road and down to Peters Mountain. The second day has you going past a water fall and down to Hemlock Picnic area where you will once again be hiking along Rock Creek. Good water there. Past Great Meadows campground, across the creek and you are in the final miles of your hike. Up the old flat area where light rail once pulled resources from the forest and the climb up to Divide Road to the end point for this section.

**FRIDAY NIGHT CAMPOUT:** Friday night campout will be at Peters Mountain. There is limited space on Peter’s Mountain the ground is pretty hard. Few trees except along the edge of the area. Better camping is across the road just off the Trace. There is a pit toilet at Peters Mountain but no water sources. You can leave your tent up if you come in on Friday night and some gear in your car since it will be close by on Saturday night. Please do not arrive before 6 pm . Friday night arrivals please plan on camping away from Peter’s Mountain just off the Trace about 500 feet across the road off the Trace. This is to keep your gear etc out of site on Saturday while you are hiking.



## **Section 10 September Trace Notes:**

### **Blue Heron to Divide Road**

**FRIDAY NIGHT EARLY START:** Meet at Peter's Mountain at times set on your registration. Do NOT park your car on Peter's Mountain. Go to the right as you come up the hill and park off the side of the road on the right. We will shuttle you back to the Blue Heron trail head. Hike as far as you wish and make camp. Secure your food as this is bear country.

**SATURDAY SHUTTLE:** Shuttle leaves from Peter's Mountain at 6:30. It is a 60 minute ride back down Peter's Mountain Road and up and over and down to Blue Heron.

***NOTE: If for some reason you are unable to get to Peter's Mountain on time, the back up plan is for you to go to Blue Heron and park there. Text if you are running late but recognize that there is limited cell service.***

**Water:** You should start with at least two liters of water. Water is plentiful all along the trail. Treat all water. Water will be available from the support vehicle at Peter's Mountain and you can leave some in your car. You will have to draw water from local streams as you come into the camp area.

**Water Obstacles / other Obstacles:** Water shoes are warranted but not necessary. There are 3 stream crossings on this section but lack of rain will make them pretty dry.

**5 lb. Drop:** The 5 lb. drop is NOT IN effect.

**Maps:** The south map set covers this section.

**Saturday Campsite:** In the woods or at Peter's Mountain. If you come in Friday night we highly recommend you camp off the trail across the road from Peter's Mountain so that your gear is not visible sitting in the open all day Saturday. .

**Bear Bag:** Since you will be camping right where your car is parked, please store all food etc in your car. If you choose to sleep in your car, do not, DO NOT sleep with the windows all fully down as a bear just might decide to join you or grab your bag.

### **SATURDAY NOTES:**

You continue your journey south leaving from Blue Heron. Up onto the Tipple bridge for one last photo opportunity and then at the end of the bridge go LEFT. You are on the Trace and Kentucky Trail now. You will head up to the top of the hill where the trail goes straight to Dicks Gap or left on the Sheltopee. There should be blazing there. Dick's Gap is worth the extra time on the trail and takes 15 minutes from the intersection. If you go on up the hill you come out in a parking area and if you look to your right you will see the trail into the woods and 5 minutes you are at Dick's Gap where you can look out over the Blue Heron Camp.

In a half mile you intersect the Blue Heron Loop trail. CAREFUL. Go straight on to Catawba Overlook and then past Dick Gap Falls and down to the river. For the next mile or so you will see and hear the river on your left. Near mile 272 on new STNRT maps you will cross a small stream near Big Spring Falls and head away from the

river and toward Ledbetter Farm Road, not to be confused with Ledbetter trail head which is on the next road—Bald Knob Hill Cemetery Road.

At Bald-Knob Hill road you go right and follow the road for .25 mile and come to the trail head. The support vehicle for the Challenge may be there if all goes well. 10 minutes past the trail head the STNRT goes to the right back into the woods and the old road continues down the hill. Please stay on the STNRT. There should be blazing there. At mile 276.5 you will again be along the river and it will be on your left for the next mile and half. Just past mile 277 on the new map you will intersect that yellow trail or Ledbetter road. Continue on the Trace along the river. At mile 279.5 the Trace again heads inward away from the river. At 279 on new STNRT maps you intersect the Stepping Rock Trail. If you need to get off the trail or need assistance this trail will take you up to Divide Road about 1.5 miles away.

You are now in some of the remotest parts of the Big South Fork. Around mile 280 you cross Troublesome Creek—yes we know the bridge needs repairs. Before mile 282 you may if an emergency take Car Ridge Road but it is overgrown most likely and not marked. At mile 283.5 the Trace is signed and will direct you out the Laurel Hill Trail, about 3 miles to Divide Road or as map calls it Beech Grove Road.

Left and you are now within 1.5 miles from Peter's Mountain.

## **SUNDAY NOTES**

Leaving Peter's Mountain the Trace is across the road on the corner of Peter's Mountain Road and Divide Road. Enjoy this section as it is a beautiful section year round. There is a water fall that may be running and near mile 289 you will have to hike in the stream for a short distance through to giant boulders. At the bottom of the hill you enter an open space and the Trace goes around the corner and not you are following Rock Creek on your right. Across the creek in the woods you might see Hemlock Grove Picnic Area. Be ALERT in this area as the Gobblers Arch trail goes off to the left and many a hiker has succumbed to a wrong turn up the Gobbler.

In 2 miles you will come into an open area on the right across Rock Creek. This is Great Meadows Campground. There is a pit toilet there and water if you want to get your feet wet. But you are less than 5 miles from done so maybe move on and come back another day.

At mile 300 on the new maps you say good-bye to Kentucky and hello Tennessee. Your long journey, starting in January is coming to a close. Just 40 difficult miles left according to the new map. About a half mile past the state line, BE ALERT and do not make a wrong turn onto the Rock Creek Loop. DO NOT FOLLOW ANY SIGNS TO PICKETT STATE PARK—HIDDEN PASSAGE OR YOU WILL GO A LONG WAY OUT OF YOUR WAY.

Just past Massey Branch Falls you will come to a bridge. At the end of the bridge there is a staircase. Go up and go left. DO NOT GO DOWN THE OTHER SIDE AS THIS IS ROCK CREEK LOOP.

Less than a half mile now and up the hill and out to Divide Road trail head and your journey is complete.

At the trail head, the STA shuttle will take you back to your car at Peter's Mountain about a 5 mile drive. If the shuttle is not there, grab a seat and wait.

## **PETER'S MOUNTAIN DIRECTIONS**

**CAUTION: DO NOT DEPEND ON YOUR PHONE OR CAR GPS. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THIS INFORMATION AND OR THE MAPS. CELL SERVICE IS SPOTTY.**

1. Get to Stearns Ky either on I-75 to Williamsburg then over 92 and right on 27 then down to the 92 turn left over to Scenic Railway Station. Or come down 27 from the north and turn right on 92 at the Stearns Scenic Railway sign.
2. Stay on 92 now for about 8 miles down to Yamacraw Day Use Area and across the bridge. At the end of the bridge where the old store is located, go left onto highway 1363. 1363 deadends at a gravel road. Go left and across the bridge. Stay straight past Bell Farm and up the hill. This is Peter's Mountain Road. Stay on this gravel road for 8 miles. It ends right at Peter's Mountain.