

**Uwharrie National Forest - Panther Branch of Barnes Creek
Troop 9 Backpacking and Campout
27-28 February 2010**

Description

The hike is the northern section, 8.45 of the 22 miles of the Uwharrie National Trail in the Uwharrie National Forest, departing from State Road 109 northbound 5.1 miles from downtown Troy. The troop will hike 5 miles north to the Panther Branch of Barnes Creek to camp Saturday night. Sunday morning's hike will continue for 1/2 mile on the Uwharrie Trail to its intersection with State Road (SR) 1134 (Tower Road). If conditions and resources merit, the hike will continue to the Dark Mountain northern terminus 2.5 miles east of Ophir on State Road (SR) 1306. The trip will be under full pack carrying all food with water available along the trail.

The original trail, conceived by Joe Moffitt and constructed with the help of his and other Boy Scout troops, included an additional 15 miles of trail north of the current northern terminus. Seven and a half miles of that segment remains as the Birkhead Wilderness Trail and will not be included in this trip. Access to the 7.5 mile connecting link with the remaining Uwharrie Trail has been lost due to private land conflicts. As a reference point, this portion of the Uwharrie is approximately sixteen miles south and very slightly west of Asheboro. The climb is light; typical ascents and descents are two to three hundred feet per mile with occasional climbs of up to five hundred feet on as little as a half mile.

The Uwharrie mountains are thought to have formed as an ancient chain of volcanic islands in the Atlantic ocean. When the African and North American plates collided around 600 million years ago, the islands were welded onto North America forming a mountain range thought to have been 20,000 feet in elevation. Weathering and erosion has reduced their peaks to around 1,000 feet today. As such, they are thought to be one of the oldest mountain ranges in the U.S.

Saturday	7:00 a.m.	Meet at Timberlyne
	7:30 am	Depart for Uwharrie from Subway - Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy Rd. Chapel Hill
	~9:30 am	Ferry vehicle(s) to trail terminus at Barnes Creek Eat before beginning hike
	~11:00 am	Begin Hike on Panther Creek Trail to campsite, 5 miles
	Sunset (6:13 pm)	Overnight at the campsite on Panther Creek
Sunday	7:00 am	Reveille
		Breakfast / Scout's Own
	9:00 am	Hike out 1/2 mile to the Tower road and vehicles under full pack. Weather, time, and conditions permitting, Scouts may be able to continue onto the Dark Mountain portion of the hike (~3 miles) with day packs.
	NOON	Cooler lunch at the cars, ferry vehicles if needed
	~3:00 pm	Arrive at Timberlyne in Chapel Hill

Personal Equipment

Pack for potentially cold, wet weather. Expect highs in the 40s F and lows in the 20s F. Please pay particular attention to the recommendations for layering in cold weather posted at <http://t9ch.org/Docs/Equipment/NOCOTTON.html>

See Troop 9 website guidelines for backpacking: <http://t9ch.org/Docs/Equipment/Backpacking.html>, but 'Light is right' here, so do not bring extraneous items.

Bring a complete change of clothes in a grocery bag or small duffel to leave in the car. Blaze orange clothing is required for this outing. Knit caps embroidered with the Troop 9 logo are available for purchase at Troop meetings for \$10.

Two items of critical importance in your 'Ten Essentials' are water bottles and enough trail mix for two days of hiking.

Food and Group Equipment

Scouts completed Duty Rosters at the Tuesday night meetings. Scouts who are unsure of their responsibilities should contact their patrol leader.

Group equipment will be checked out to the patrols at Tuesday's meeting. Scouts who check out group equipment need to remember to bring it on Saturday morning.

Messages and Emergency Contact

May try telephone contact, much of the area has poor cell phone coverage. Gregg Gerdau (919) 593-0037 Wayne Vanderburg (919) 260-2792

Trip Return

We estimate arriving at Timberlyne at 3 pm on Sunday afternoon. On departing from Uwharrie, trip leaders will begin calls on the Troop phone tree to notify parents of a revised arrival time.

Water

Be sure to bring at least 2 liters of water for the hike in. We'll need to filter drinking water from the Panther Creek at our campsite. Conditions are primitive.

Driving Route

Estimated travel time is one hour 45 minutes from Chapel Hill (~92 miles)
<http://www.mapquest.com/mq/6-4EgERvOB>

Weaver Dairy Road	2.5 mi	South to Erwin Road, turn right
Erwin Road	.5 mi.	South to 15-501, turn right and stay left on Fordham Blvd
Fordham Blvd	4.3 mi.	Take Fordham Blvd /54 bypass to 15-501 South
15-501 South	13.3 mi.	South to US 64 West
US 64 West	40 mi.	West to NC-49
NC 49 South	17.3 mi.	Southwest, to NC 109/Denton/Troy. Take a left on 109 toward Troy

NC 109 ~13 mi. East to Uwharrie trailhead. Trailhead is on the left approximately 2 miles past the town of Uwharrie
State Road 1134 / Tower Road is an overshoot landmark

To trail intersection with State Road 1134 / Tower Road, from trailhead

109 ~2.0 mi. Southeast, take a left on State Road 1134 / Tower Road Stay left at Y with State Road 1314, Aunt Queen Bee Road

Tower Road ~5.0 mi. North to intersection with trailhead, gravel lot is on the right Barnes Creek is an overshoot landmark

To Dark Mountain Trail terminus, from trailhead

109 2.0 mi. North to Uwharrie, take a right on state road 1303

SR1303 5.1 mi. North to Ophir, take a right on state road 1306

SR1306 2.5 mi. East to Dark Mountain Terminus at Barnes Creek, watch for parking lot on the right