

# TERRAPIN TRAILS

Newsletter of the  
TERRAPIN TRAIL CLUB,  
University of Maryland,  
College Park

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1965 - 66 Edition

October 7, 1965

No. 1

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## WELCOME BACK !

The Terrapin Trail Club held its first meeting of the year on Thursday, September 30, 1965, and had a good turnout of both old and new members -- so good, in fact, that we had to move into a bigger room!

Club meetings, as usual, will be held on the first and third Thursdays of the month. We hope the newcomers will find the club enjoyable and will participate in as many activities as they can. Remember -- if you want to go somewhere or try something new -- speak up! There's bound to be somebody around who'll join you!

## OFFICERS

For the benefit of people with memories like mine, here is a list of the club's officers and their addresses and phone numbers:

President: Rich Blumberg, Cambridge Hall, WA 7-3800, ext 7069  
Vice-President: Bob Taft, 11118 Nicholas Drive, Silver Spring, 949-6382  
Secretary: Kathy Engler, Box 198 Centreville South, ext 7273  
Treasurer: to be elected

## ALUMNI

For the benefit of the old hands who recall with nostalgia the vanished faces, this newsletter will publish mailing addresses from time to time (whenever somebody gives us one). As a starter,

Paul Gerhard  
1602 West 134th St. No. 9  
Gardena, California

Paul was somewhat well-known around Maryland U. a few years ago for his various hiking, climbing, caving, and other exploits. Among other things, he hiked the 2000-mile Appalachian Trail (Georgia to Maine) one summer. During this past summer he made the national press concerning a cave rescue in Utah. Paul's comment: "Don't believe everything you read in the papers." (The above information donated by Randy Mardres).

## TRIP REPORTS

### 1. OLD RAG.

By the time you read this newsletter, the TTC Old Rag Trip (Oct. 3) will have come and gone, but we went to press too early for a report. Details next newsletter.

## 2. SUMMER TRIPS ON APPALACHIAN TRAIL.

During this past summer, Randy Mardres and I took three 3-day backpacking trips on the Appalachian Trail. Since we were carrying everything we needed anyway, we decided to use the available buses and trains to and from the Trail, and avoid circle-hiking from a parked car.

May 29-31 (Memorial Day weekend). Harper's Ferry area.

We rode the train to and from Harper's Ferry, which comes in to the middle of the "historic" part of town. This is on a side trail from the A.T. To go north, cross the old railroad bridge and follow the blue blazes about 1 1/4 miles to the A.T. To go south, it is about 1 1/4 miles thru town and over the highway bridge to the beginning of the blue-blazed trail, then another mile up the mountain to where it joins the A.T.

This trip would make a nice one-day hike, circling from Harper's Ferry, or two days for lazy people like us. (See the guidebook -- about 5 or 6 miles round trip). Several nice views, but no water except near the Sandy Hook Bridge or in town.

July 3-5 (Holiday). Harper's Ferry to Bluemont, Va. (Snicker's Gap).

Road the train again to Harper's Ferry, followed the side trail south till it meets the A.T., then south to Key's Gap, Wilson's Gap, and Bluemont. Key's and Wilson's Gaps both have nice shelters with springs. The Key's Gap spring was barely running so we used purification tablets; the others looked clean. The guidebook says wire bunks in the shelters, but they are now wooden platforms.

This trip is about 19 miles -- roughly 6 1/2 to Key's Gap, 7 1/2 farther to Wilson's Gap, and 5 miles on to Snicker's Gap, where one can catch a bus back to D.C. Good views in many places on the route.

The guidebook mentions numerous springs between Key's and Wilson's Gaps, but we could only find one and it was dry. Apparently part of the trail has been rerouted since the book was written (the trail descriptions don't match the terrain), and no longer connects with some of the trails to the springs.

Leprechaun Springs (just south of where the side trail from Harper's Ferry joins the main one) was running, but you have to climb about 2/3 of the way back down the mountain to reach it. You also can continue down from there to Harper's Ferry.

We were rained on twice -- once the first afternoon for about 15 rather damp minutes, then for an hour or more on the last day while hurrying to catch our bus. We were completely drenched that time, but some very nice people in a station wagon with three kids and two Labrador Retrievers gave us a lift halfway home. They looked like the delightful sort of people who collect stray, helpless critters in the woods.

September 4-6 (Labor Day weekend). Ashby Gap (Paris, Va.) to Manassas Gap (Linden, Va.)

12 3/4 miles. Yellow Rose Shelter is about 3 1/2 miles south of Ashby Gap, up a fire-road (easy walking); Manassas Gap shelter is 5 miles farther south, along a poorly graded, very rocky trail, then 4 1/4 miles on into Linden. We rode the bus to Paris and the driver was kind enough to take us a mile farther on, to the top of a long, steep hill, to where the Trail crosses the Highway. We hiked into Yellow Rose, which was occupied by a family with four kids and a cat, and who had two 6-pacs of beer and a bottle of champagne cooling in the spring. They weren't Sunday campers, however, and knew their stuff. Lots of fun. There is a grove of tart apples a few hundred feet south of Yellow Rose on the Trail, nice for cobblers or other desserts. Well-running spring, usually clean. Bunks wood.

Manassas Gap Shelter's log book had an entry about "20 rats running around during the night, several people bitten." It turned out to be one rather large field mouse that chewed on our breakfast food and ran off with some extra underwear out of our packs

while we were eating dinner. Fortunately there is a metal cabinet to keep food in at night. A very well-stocked shelter. The caretaker happened to be there and gave us a lift back to D.C., so we never saw the Trail on down to Linden.

Another hike we didn't take is between Snicker's Gap (Bluemont) and Ashby Gap (Paris), using the same buses. This is an 11.8 mile hike, with a shelter about 3 1/2 miles south of Snicker's Gap (Three Springs).

TRAIN AND BUS SCHEDULES

Here are the bus and train schedules from D.C. to various points on the Appalachian Trail in Virginia. Bus schedules are often changed slightly every three months, so you might call the terminal before leaving.

1. Train to Harper's Ferry -- B & O. \$3.36 round trip. Trip takes about an hour and a half. Stops in Silver Spring about 25 minutes after leaving Union Station; also stops there on return trip.

Leave D.C.	Leave Harper's Ferry (return)
8:30 AM	7:18 AM
1:00 PM	8:11 AM
5:00 PM	4:34 PM
7:00 PM	10:37 PM
11:30 PM	

2. Bus to Bluemont, Va. Greyhound. West on Va. Rte. 7 through Leesburg. \$2.20 r.t.

Leave D.C.	Arr. Blmt.	Leave Blmt (return)	Arr. D.C.
9:15 AM	10:59 AM	10:14 AM	11:55 AM
<del>10:00 PM</del>	5:41 PM	5:38 PM	7:25 PM
10:45 PM	11:29 PM	11:44 PM	1:15 AM

This bus stops on West Falls Church 30 min. after leaving D.C., and in Tyson's Corner's Va. 8 min. after that. Also on return.

3. Bus to Paris, Va. (Ashby Gap). Greyhound. West on Va. Rte. 50. FLAG STOP. \$2.10 one way. Stops in Alexandria 23 min. after leaving D.C., and in Fairfax, Va., 30 min. after that. About 1 1/2 hours from D.C. to Paris.

Leave D.C.	Pass Paris (return).
1:00 AM	about 11:00 AM
4:00 AM	1:30 PM
9:15 AM	7:00 PM
2:45 PM	11:30 PM
7:30 PM	

4. Bus to Linden, Va. (Manassas Gap). Trailways. \$2.55 one-way; \$4.60 r.t. Stops in Falls Church (Broad & Lee) 25 min. after leaving D.C.

Leave D.C.	Arr. Linden	Leave Linden (return)	Arr. D.C.
8:15 AM	10:10 AM	12:15 PM	2:10 PM
4:30 PM	6:15 PM	6:50 PM	8:45 PM

All trip report or other information for the newsletter should be turned in to any of the officers (see page 1) or to Jean Weber, call 434-2539 and she will pick them up, or bring to meetings. For Trip Reports, give directions, time of travel, cost, who went, and comments. You can write it in "finished form" or just give notes and we'll write the story.

Editor: Jean Weber. Special thanks to Bob & Eileen Davis for the use of their mimeograph machine.