

C/C
Ruth Blackburn
Ed Garvey
Craig Evans

Subject: American Hiking Association-
Hika Nation: (co-sponsor
U.S. Dept. of Interior)

Dear

The Appalachian Trail Conference through its member clubs is supporting the Hika Nation project as the 50 - 60 participants walk from Damascus to Washington D C.-leaving the A.T. at Harpers Ferry.

The hike started in San Francisco April 12, 1980 and the unofficial time schedule indicates the group should arrive in Virginia in late February or early March.

Those of you who have followed the hike by reading the AHS newsletter or Backpacker magazine are aware that along the way much publicity and local participation is the norm.

It is hoped each of our clubs will participate as the group hikes your section of the trail. One point of great importance is that maintenance of the A.T. from Damascus to Harpers Ferry should be even better than during our last springs "walk Thru".

It is suggested your club appoint a committee to coordinate club and community activities.

The A.T. as it proceeds northward generally skirts major cities between Damascus and Harpers Ferry; however, Damascus, Pearisburg, Roanoke, Rockfish Gap (Waynesboro) are cities that could be used for welcoming or special activities.

Damascus is certainly one city that is ideal for welcoming because it is the entrance to the famous National Scenic A.T. The hiking community across the nation will have their eyes focused on the A.T. We certainly desire to set an example for the Nations growing Trail system.

What should we do? Each club has the option of a program suitable to their area. No funds have been authorized by the Board of Managers so local activity should be based on self financing.

Reported activities along the hike to date indicate major community and sporting goods company support.

Activities included-and I assume occurred:

1. David F. Hales, Senior Deputy of the Dept. of Interior met the hikers at Silverton, Colo. Aug. 26.
2. Members of the Youth Conservation Corps (Colo) joined the hike for several days.
3. Silverton Colo-welcome hand shakes from Colo. Congressman, a catered dinner, folk music.

4. Utah-hikers had a chance to go through Zion National Park. The Coleman Co. hosted a breakfast . Special side trip hikes in Utah. The Postum Division of General Foods hosted a beef and chicken barbecue.
5. Some areas- TV coverage.
6. U.S. News and World Report, July 21, 1980 issue.
7. Local residents joined the group for one day to several days.
8. Coverage by UPI, A.P.
9. Greeting by local town officials-mayor.
10. Reese Lukei, Tidewater ATC suggests the Virginia Clubs as a minimum should serve as guides, help plan lodging and assist the group especially if weather is bad. It has also been suggested each club select local laundry-mats so clothes can be dried. Location for hot showers and a place to warm up.
- 11.

The AHS does have state coordinators to assist the hikers in their food supply and other essentials. Reese Lukei is the AHS Virginia coordinator.

The hike from Harpers Ferry to Washington in May, will be under the guidance of Ed. Garvey. A huge celebration is scheduled for Washington D.C.

The club planning must be such that dates are flexible. Winter weather will delay the hikers, ie plans should be completed as soon as possible but impleation can not occur until a few days before the group arrives.

Please let me know if your club will plan special events. Also the name of your committee chairman.

Present ATC Coordinators are:

Ed Page	Natural Bridge ATC,
Reese F. Lukei	Tidewater ATC
Mike Dawson	SW VA. ATC representative
Dave Startzel	ATC Acting Executive Director
Bbb Proudman	AT Project Office

As more information becomes available you will be informed. However it is not too early to formulate your club plans.

Sincerely,

ED Page
Chairman ATC



THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE

P.O. BOX 236, HARPERS FERRY, W. VA. 25425

Ed Page:

Subject:

Hike-a-Nation

Do you have information on this? They began in San Francisco and will arrive in southern Virginia in the spring. PATC has a member, Susan Henly who is with them.

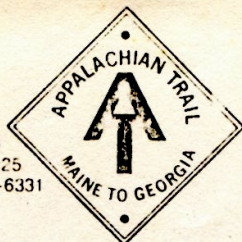
You are in a good position to represent the ATC in making the preparations for their hike through Virginia. When I go up to the Conference I will look up whatever material Hank could have left. He assured the group of our interest.

You are the ideal person to head up this program. I will let you know what I find out.

Ruth

APPALACHIAN TRAIL
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2316 Glencove Pl.
Lynchburg, Va. 24503
Nov. 13, 1980

Mr. Craig Evans
Executive Director
American Hiking Society
317 Pennsylvania Ave. SE
Washington D. C. 20003

Dear Craig:

Subject: Hike a Nation

The Appalachian Trail Conference at its recent board of Managers meeting has asked me to coordinate the Hike a Nation activity with the different A.T. trail clubs that will be involved as the hikers walk the A.T. from Damascus, Va. to Harpers Ferry.

Could you please bring me up to date on the progress of the participants? When do you anticipate they will enter the A.T. and where?

If details can be worked out it is my desire to have a conference member club participate with the Hike a Nation group as they walk through each club area.

How do we coordinate with you the TV and News media for the event?

What activities have local hiking clubs- or local interested groups- done for the group? In other words what has the group become to expect of local supporters? Unless some unexpected ice storm occurs we hope to have the trail in good condition for the hikers.

If an itinerary has been prepared for the hike thru Virginia (Tenn. or N.C.) please send me a copy.

This letter serves to open the planning process for ATC/ Hike a Nation activity please advise if the AHS desires this joint participation. I understand Ed Garvey is working on details relative to the hike from Harpers Ferry to Washington.

Sincerely,

Ed Page
Ed Page

c/c Ruth Blackburn
Ed Garvey

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