



Purposes of the Blue Ridge Rail Road Historical Trail

The purposes of this trail are: (1) to create greater interest in our American heritage and South Carolina history through research and actual travel over historic sites; (2) to stimulate the study of nature and natural resources; (3) to promote interest in hiking; (4) to encourage better physical fitness through exercise and; (5) to promote youth leadership.

It presently extends from the Issaqueena Falls lookout area to the southern face of Saddle Mountain, approximately 1.5 mi. and back, totaling a 3.0 mi. hike. The trail follows the uncompleted railroad bed. The trail is relatively level and well marked, with a difficult level of 1- [easy hiking]. It is now a registered trail in the National Register of Historic Railroad Trails as well as a registered hiking trail for the Boy Scouts of America.

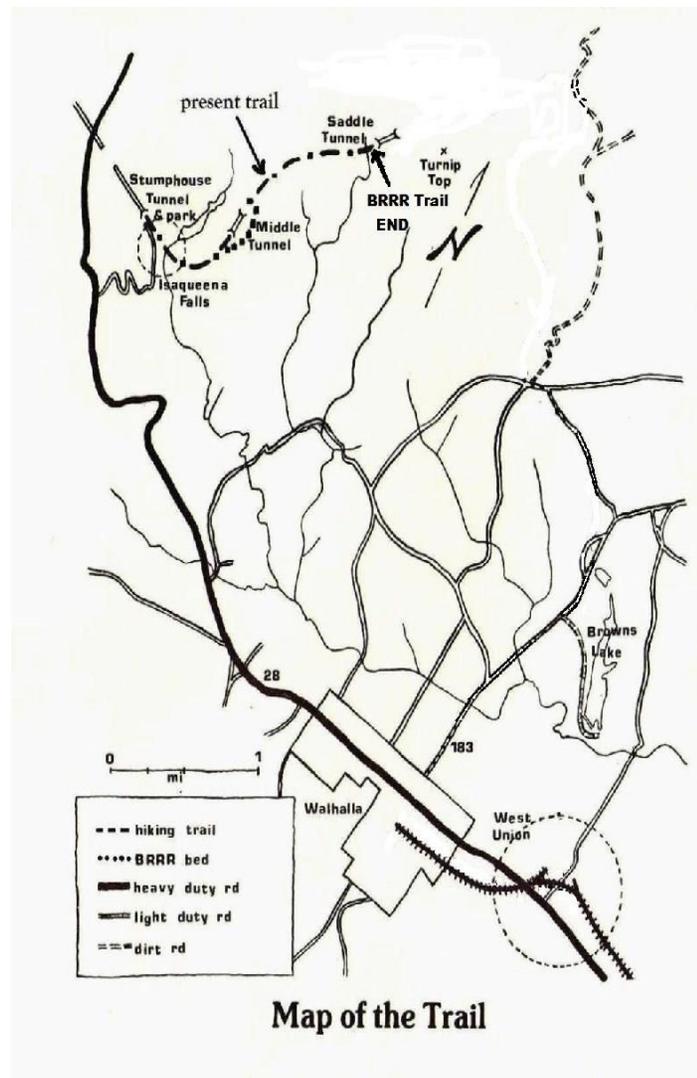
The Blue Ridge Rail Road Trail... A Hike into History

History of the Blue Ridge Rail Road

During the middle of the Antebellum period in the United States, Charleston businessmen were anxious to establish a rail road connection with the fertile land of the Midwest. A possible route was surveyed through South Carolina, north-east Georgia, northeast North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. In the 1850's construction began on the Blue Ridge Rail Road, starting at Anderson, South Carolina, punching through the mountains at Rabun Gap, Georgia and terminating at Knoxville, Tennessee.

When work began on the railroad, it was projected that it would pass through thirteen tunnels. The longest [projected 5863ft. in length] and most difficult was that at Stumphouse Mountain, to be worked solely with hand tools. With four shafts sunk and completed and 4,363 feet being excavated, all construction on the road and tunnel was stopped in December 1859, from Walhalla to Franklin, North Carolina.

A portion of the tunnel is open to the public on a daily basis from 10:00am to 5:00pm.





A Leaders Guide describing the trail, with a detailed map and a copy of this pamphlet is available on the website.

Boy Scouts who hike the trail are eligible for patch, and possibly the medal, which are pictured in the pamphlet. The requirements for each are listed in the Leaders Guide. The cost for the Guide and pamphlet will be deducted from the total cost of the medals and patches ordered for those hikers who qualify.

Anyone desiring more information concerning the trail may do so by contacting the:

**Blue Ridge Council
Boy Scouts of America
1 Park Plaza
Greenville, S.C., 29607
864-233-8363**



The Blue Ridge Rail Road

Historical Trail

In Memory of

Henry D. Biemann III

and

Phillip E. Campbell

[past Scouters of the Oconee District]

Blue Ridge Council

Boy Scouts of America

864-233-8363

www.blueridgecouncil.org