

## **Harbison State Forest Back-to-Back Hike**

Columbia, SC

April 2&3, 2011

Weigh-in: 8:30am Hike Starts: 9:00am

Hike Fee: None/Donations Accepted\*

Parking Fee: \$5/day

Inclement Weather Date: April 9&10, 2011

## **Hike Coordinator**

Jennifer Davis

114 Kwanzan Drive

Lexington, SC 29072

[Neefer77@hotmail.com](mailto:Neefer77@hotmail.com)

Cell 803-206-3166

---

## **The Trails**

Harbison State Forest is a 2,200 acre woodland located along the Broad River. The forest is a mixture of both hardwood and pine. There are 67 species of trees, roughly forty percent loblolly and shortleaf pine, forty percent natural longleaf pine, twenty percent bottomland flood plain hardwoods.

There are a total of 20 miles of multi-use trails through this forest designed for walking, jogging, hiking, and cycling. These are easy trails with occasional hills that will allow you to enjoy the scenery and spring changes of the forest.

To view more about the trails visit: [www.state.sc.us/forest/refharb.htm](http://www.state.sc.us/forest/refharb.htm) or [www.friendsofhsf.org](http://www.friendsofhsf.org).

## **Our Route**

The trails we will be hiking are considered easy, even with the gradual hills. If you view the trail map and read the trail ratings, some of these are labeled "Very Difficult". I am not sure where these ratings originate and unless you are in poor physical condition, I find it hard that you would not consider these trails easy.

### **Day 1**

We will park in the top parking lot on Day 1 and start our hike on Firebreak Trail. We will hike Firebreak Trail for 1.6 miles until we catch a connector trail for 0.3 miles over to Spiderwoman Trail. We will hike the majority of Spiderwoman Trail, 2.5 miles, cutting over to Midlands Mountain Trail on another connector trail. We will stay on Midlands Mountain Trail and hike it for approximately 2.1 miles to include a visit to Harbison Bluffs. Finally we will pick back up Firebreak Trail and finish out our hike for the remaining 1.5 miles.

### **Day 2**

We will park in the top parking lot on Day 2 and start our hike on Firebreak Trail. We will hike 1.2 miles and catch the Eagle Trail. We will do the outer loop of 0.8 miles and re-trace back down Firebreak Trail for 0.2 miles and take the connector trail 0.9 miles to the Stewardship Trail. We will hike the entire Stewardship Trail for 3.0 miles and then take the connector trail back 0.9 miles to the Firebreak Trail. We will hike the Firebreak Trail 1.0 miles back to the parking lot.

## **Policy/Procedures Related to Titles**

The Harbison State Forest back-to-back hike allows working teams to compete for two legs toward a GSMDCA Pack Dog Title. A team competing for a leg on a title is one handler per dog over the entire course. Dog/handler teams successfully completing the event will receive a ribbon and certificate. Participants should review and become familiar with the GSMDCA Pack Dog Regulations, available on [www.gsmdca.org](http://www.gsmdca.org).

The trails on this hike are considered easy. Dogs and handlers must be conditioned for this hike and should have completed at least one training hike workout consisting of 6 miles carrying the weight to be carried during the hike. For a team's first Novice Working Pack Dog leg, they must have completed the prerequisite 6-mile training hike with full pack weight.

Dogs must be weighted by a veterinarian within 7 days of the hike date. The handler must provide, on veterinarian office stationary or business card, the dog's name, weight, date, and staff signature prior to the start of the hike. Packs will be weighed at the trailhead at the beginning of each hike and then placed on the dogs. The hike coordinator will disqualify any team who does not adhere to the rules regarding water and food consumption. No discarding of food or water will be allowed. Handlers will be reminded of these rules during the pack weighing process. We will practice LNT hiking. Dogs must remain on leash at all times and you will be expected to keep your dog under control at all times. At the end of the hike, certificates and ribbons will be distributed to teams who have successfully completed the requirements as outlined in the GSMDCA Working Pack Dog policy.

## **Safety Precautions**

The trails in Harbison State Forest are multi-use trails. All participants will receive verbal instruction regarding pedestrian and mountain biking encounters. No flexi-leads are allowed and no leashes longer than 6 feet. Animal and human first aid kits will be available throughout the hike.

Any injured animal can be transported to South Carolina Veterinary Emergency Care in Columbia, approximately 2 miles from the hike location.

Humans with injury/illness requiring medical attention will be transported to Lexington Medical Center in West Columbia, approximately 7 miles from the hike location; or Palmetto Health Richland Hospital in Columbia, approximately 10 miles from the hike location.

An emergency vehicle will be available to transport any injured human/animal at the beginning of the trailhead and approximately midpoint along the trail. The midpoint emergency vehicle will be parked at the #5 parking area on the Harbison State Forest map on Day 1 and the #6 parking area on the Harbison State Forest map on Day 2. As event coordinator, I will dismiss and arrange transportation for any dog or

handler who show signs (painful walking, resistance to going on) that they are unable to complete these hikes. We will take short breaks as needed, approximately every 2 miles.

## **Registration Form**

Please use the attached registration form and let me know in advance of the hike if you will be attending so that I can contact you about any inclement weather or trail concerns. Call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns: Jennifer Davis – 803-206-3166 or [Neefer77@hotmail.com](mailto:Neefer77@hotmail.com).

## **Additional Information**

Hikers will be responsible for bringing and carrying their own lunches/snacks. Lunches may be carried by the dog in its pack or by the handler in a separate backpack. There are several porta-potty facilities at various locations during our hike. Depending on rainfall, these trails can be very muddy. Waterproof boots are recommended. Please let the coordinator know in advance if you will be attending so that she can contact you about any inclement weather or trail concerns. Participants should review the GSMDCA Pack Dog Regulations, available on [www.gsmdca.org](http://www.gsmdca.org).

\*There is no hike fee due to the regulations of Harbison State Forest. If you charge any type of fee for an activity in Harbison State Forest, you must do their special registration which costs \$200. Therefore we have no hike fee, but will take donations of \$15 per team.

## **Directions to Trailhead**

From I-26 East:

Take Exit #103 (Harbison Blvd Exit). Take a LEFT off of the exit ramp onto Harbison Boulevard and travel 0.9 miles. Harbison Boulevard will dead end into Broad River Road at a traffic light. Take a RIGHT. Travel 0.4 miles on Broad River Road and take a LEFT into Harbison State Forest. Take an immediate LEFT into the Firebreak Trail Parking Lot. You will park here for both Day 1 & Day 2 hikes.

From I-26 West:

Take Exit #103 (Harbison Blvd Exit). Take a LEFT off of the exit ramp onto Harbison Boulevard and travel 0.7 miles. Harbison Boulevard will dead end into Broad River Road at a traffic light. Take a RIGHT. Travel 0.4 miles on Broad River Road and take a LEFT into Harbison State Forest. Take an immediate LEFT into the Firebreak Trail Parking Lot. You will park here for both Day 1 & Day 2 hikes.

## **Veterinary Emergency Care (Dogs)**

### **South Carolina Veterinary Emergency Care**

Approximately 2 miles from the hike location

3924 Fernandina Road

Columbia, SC 29210

803-798-3837

[www.scvec.com](http://www.scvec.com)

## **Emergency Care (Humans)**

### **Lexington Medical Center**

Approximately 7 miles from the hike location

2720 Sunset Boulevard

West Columbia, SC 29169

803-791-2000

[www.lexmed.com](http://www.lexmed.com)

### **Palmetto Health Richland Hospital**

Approximately 10 miles from the hike location

5 Richland Medical Park Drive

Columbia, SC 29203

803-434-7000

[www.palmettohealth.org/body.cfm?id=189](http://www.palmettohealth.org/body.cfm?id=189)

## **Lodging**

### **Red Roof Inn**

10 Berryhill Road

Columbia, SC 29210

Phone: 803-798-9220

Rates from \$45

Pet Fee: None

Approximately 3.5 miles from the hike location

### **Towne Place Suites Columbia Northwest/Harbison**

350 Columbiana Drive

Columbia, SC 29212

Phone: 803-781-9391

Rates from \$89

Pet Fee: \$100 (outrageous, but not a typo)

Approximately 4 miles from the hike location

### **La Quinta Inn & Suites Columbia NE Fort Jackson**

1538 Horseshoe Drive

Columbia, SC 29223

Phone: 803-736-6400

Rates from \$69

Pet Fee: None

Approximately 13 miles from the hike location