

Blackburn Trail Center

Built in 1910 the Blackburn Trail Center was acquired by PATC in 1979. The largest facility in the Club's cabin system, Blackburn consists of the Main House, the Carriage House and the Hikers Hostel. Resident caretakers live on the premises during the hiking season. The Center is primarily designed to support long distance hikers, trail crews, Club planning meetings and training seminars. When not being used for official club activities the Center is the perfect location for large group use. In the past Blackburn has hosted weddings, family reunions and milestone birthday parties.

Located on a 150 acre wooded tract and backing up to the A.T. corridor, Blackburn can accommodate up to 80 plus people for a day event and has indoor lodging space for 30 people with at least 30 more using tent spaces and the adjoining campground. The commercial style kitchen provides two propane gas stoves, refrigerator and freezer, double sinks and two dishwashers. The kitchen is also well stocked with pots, pans and dishes, etc. The Main House and Carriage House both have electricity; there is also hot and cold water and wood burning stoves for cooler months. Day-hikers, thru-hikers and long distance hikers stream through Blackburn during the height of the hiking season. They stop for water, to use the pay phone or spend a night in the Hikers Hostel. The Blackburn caretaker and crew are always looking for help with on-going projects. Upcoming projects include:

- Repair a railing on outside steps damaged this winter by falling.
- Build a cabinet below the wash sink under the stairs in the main house.
- Build out a new kitchen and bathroom in the Carriage House apartment.
- Repair several torn screens on the porch.
- Rake leaves from the ditches and clean out culverts along the driveway.
- Dig trench under the main house for new water line.
- Paint work for the Hiker's Hostel and the Carriage House.

We would also like volunteers for a big "Spring Clean" job throughout the main cabin and the Hikers Hostel. Call Chris at 703/924-0406 to volunteer your time or for more info.