

HORSES and CREEKS

This cycling route takes you on back roads that pass by grain, dairy and horse farms. The nearby Penn National Race Track led to the breeding, raising, and boarding of race horses in Lebanon County. This ride passes by several of these horse farms. Farmers also have a market for hay and straw. If you want to leave the relaxing countryside, you can make a short out and back to the sights and sounds of the racetrack and Hollywood Casino. The modern imprint of Interstate 81 isn't an interesting sight as you pass over the fast flowing, noisy traffic, but it provides a major contrast to the roads that you will travel.



Regal Heir horse farm on Bull Frog Road

The route passes alongside and over the Swatara and Quittapahilla Creeks, known to locals as the Swattie and Quittie, but to native Americans as “where we feed on eels” and “spring from the ground among pines”. These streams have served Lebanon County residents for centuries as transportation, water for the Union Canal, for livestock, for the operation of mills, and for recreation. Today, the Quittie and Swattie provide opportunities for fishing and canoeing. Cycling on Laurel Grove Road, you will see short ladders mounted over pasture fencing to enable fishermen to reach the Quittie.

Humankind's 19th century visible imprints include churches, cemeteries, farmsteads, and remnants of the Union Canal.



Union Canal lock

Bindnagle's Lutheran Church was built between 1802-1804.



Bindnagle Church



Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery

However, much of the area's history has vanished from sight. When you cycle on Valley Glen and Syner Roads, you can only imagine scenes from the past. There is just a sign denoting Valley Glen Park. Yet, in the late 19th century and until the 1920s, this was a wonderful place to come in the summer. There was steamboat *Annie* that offered rides on the Swatara, the Flying Horse Carousel, and the *Shoot the Chute* ride. Swimmers rode wooden sleds down a slide into Swatara Creek. It has been reported that Milton Hershey created Hershey Park as a result of his visits to Valley Glen.

To learn much more about Valley Glen Park and Bindnagle Church, visit <http://www.palmyrapa.com/history/bindnagle.shtml>.

Today, Early's Mill is barely discernable along Syner Road, but in the 18th century there was a major iron works forge and mill. This continued to be a bustling center of enterprise into the 20th century.

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This hilly ride means that there are lots of short climbs and fun descents, and ascents mean views. On Blacks Bridge Road, looking north to the Blue Mountain, you can identify two passes – Swatara Gap and Indiantown Gap.



View from Blacks Bridge Road



Canoeing & kayaking on Memorial Lake

Memorial Lake State Park is not only this ride's start location, but it offers much more including fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking. If you choose to cycle around the Lake, you will pass by the dam's breast and the home of the Adjutant General who commands the Pennsylvania National Guard. Memorial Lake Road is one way and is reached by cycling east on Boundary Road and turning right on Memorial Lake Road just before Boundary ends at Asher Miner Road.

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DESCRIPTIVE CUE SHEET

RIDE START LOCATION: Memorial Lake State Park From SR22 or I-81, go north on SR934/Fisher Avenue; left on Asher Miner Road. Bear left on to Boundary Road. There are 3 entrances to Memorial Lake State Park; each area has restrooms but the Lower Road entrance has year round restrooms available. **Horses and Creeks** starts from the Lower Road entrance parking lot.

Dist.	Cum.	Dir.	Road
0.1	0.1	L	Boundary Road
0.1	0.2	L	SR443 (Clement Avenue)
0.9	1.1	L	Park Drive <i>Levitz Park has picnic facilities, seasonal restrooms, trails.</i>
0.7	1.8	L	SR443
0.3	2.1	L	Homestead Road <i>At the stop sign, Penn National Race Course can be seen.</i>
1.2	3.3	BL	Continue on Homestead Road <i>To view the race course complex and Hollywood Casino, continue straight on Angle road .8 mile; turn left on SR443 for .6 mile and turn left. The main entrance is .4 mile into the parking lot. Retrace the route.</i>
1.1	4.4	L	Jonestown Road
0.7	5.1	L	Pleasant View Road
0.7	5.8	R	Webster School Road
0.8	6.6	R	Bull Frog Road <i>Regal Heir horse farm is on your left. At the top of the hill, look back to view farms and Blue Mountain.</i> Exercise caution when crossing SR22 out and back on this ride.
0.7	7.3	L	Jonestown Road <i>Zion's Lutheran Church and cemetery; the 1848 structure was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1901.</i> <i>The next several miles will be rolling and windy as you pass by dairy, grain and horse farms.</i>
0.8	8.1	R	Sherk's Church Road
0.9	9.0	L	Groff Road
1.1	10.1	R	Blacks Bridge Road
1.7	11.8	BL	Lindley Murray Road
0.9	12.7	L	Gravel Hill Road <i>Watch for traffic!</i> <i>You will cross Swatara Creek and then the Quittaphilla Creek.</i>
1.2	13.9	L	Syner Road <i>By continuing straight on Gravel Hill Road .3 mile you can view Bindnagle Church and cemetery. Return to Syner Road.</i>
0.2	14.1	L	Glen Road
0.2	14.3	L	Valley Glen Road <i>Cross the Quittie. Cycle past where Valley Glen Park was located on the Swattie. Two farms provide pleasant scenery.</i>
2.0	16.3	R	Laurel Grove Road <i>Laurel Grove and then Syner Road parallel the Quittie.</i>
0.8	17.1	ST	Becomes Syner Road
0.1	17.2	BR	Continue on Syner Rd
1.7	18.9	L	Palmyra-Bellegrave Road <i>Ascend to more farmland.</i>
0.9	19.8	BL	Steelstown Road
0.6	20.4	BR	Continue on Steelstown Road. <i>Enjoy the downhill!</i>
0.8	21.2	R	Valley Glen Road <i>As you complete your ride on Valley Glen, you can see to your left the next short, but sharp, ascent on Blacks Bridge Road.</i>
2.1	23.3	L	Blacks Bridge Road <i>Upon your ascent, look north to Blue Mountain and identify Swatara and Indiantown Gaps. You are now on your way back to</i>

1.4	24.7	R	<i>Memorial Lake. Enjoy the downhill as you cross Swatara Creek.</i> School House Road <i>Alongside the road is a depression which was the Union Canal; behind the farm buildings on your right are the ruins of a lock.</i>
1.9	26.6	R	Jonestown Road <i>Watch for traffic!</i>
0.2	26.8	L	Picnic Woods Road
0.8	27.6	L	Mill Road
0.5	28.1	R	Harrison School Road <i>You have earned another pleasant downhill.</i>
1.1	29.2	R	SR443 (Clement Avenue) <i>Just before turning onto Boundary Road, there is a farmhouse on the left that became a military residence when Fort Indiantown Gap was created.</i>
0.4	29.6	R	Boundary Road <i>On your left is a home that was Miller's General Store.</i>
0.1	29.7	R	Lower Road
0.1	29.8	Finish	