

September 5, 2006

Whew! Good Things Are Brewin'!

Wow, do we have a ton currently going on in the club! And the opening of the trail system at the USNWC on August 27 is just the start. Please be aware that the trails at the USNWC close with inclement weather. Please check our "Trail Condition" box on the homepage of our website for details.

With the coming of fall comes election of officers for calendar year 2007. If you would be interested in being a part of the Nominating Committee, or if you feel called to run for one of the executive board seats (Pres, VP, Treasurer, Secretary), please contact me at: president@tarheeltrailblazers.com. We've had a good year, but change can be good! Let us know your thoughts.

Great news comes to us from former club President, Jeff Smith, as the NCDENR has recommended our request for a grant of \$50K for the construction of trails at the Don E. Carmichael Conservancy in Mt. Holly. In addition, the town (Mt. Holly) has pledged an additional \$10K toward the project. It seems the last hurdle will be environmental compliance. We have been in touch with Woody Keen of Trail Dynamics (think DuPont) to construct the trail corridor.

City Park will be "Green" development replacing the Coliseum on Tyvola Road, adjacent to the trails at Renaissance. Mason Zimmerman of Pope and Land is an ally of the club and will be selling green "Loop at City Park" bracelets. The proceeds will be for the Preservation and Enhancement of the Trails at Renaissance Park, with the Trailblazers as benefactor. Unfortunately, we stand to lose approximately 1.5 miles of the softball loop but are hopeful of constructed new trails to replace.

Trail construction continues at our newest park, Sherman Branch, under the watchful eye of club VP, Jerry Adams and his partner, Steve Kiker. The trail now totals approximately 4.5 miles with plenty more to come. Jerry is fortunate to have a new park contact that is behind the plan, and the future is bright in the Mint Hill area.

Construction of a wheelchair accessible trail system begins at Jetton Park in Cornelius fall this fall. A neighborhood trail that Char Meck P&R has asked us to construct, the approximate 2 miles of trail probably won't be a destination trail for the hardcore mountain bike enthusiast. However, it may very well become a destination for those that are confined to a wheel chair. According to IMBA, we'll be writing the book on this one.

Construction of Monbo Loop at Lake Norman State Park resumes in late fall. The total trail length will be approximately 13 miles. The latest 6.5 miles of trail will up the ante on skill level. And that's not all, as a new future phase has been approved for construction of an advanced skill level trail.

I will be meeting with Jacob Burns of PASA and a representative of Huntersville P&R on the construction of an advanced level trail in the H'ville area. Currently referred to as the "Dump Trail", we are hopeful of affording more options to the big hit set. In addition, we plan to breach the subject of a "Pump Track" at North Meck, as well as a pump track and some jumps at another Char Meck Park. Just gotta get the attorneys

to buy in, we'll keep ya posted. These are the first partnered projects with PASA and we look forward to forging a great working relationship with these guys.

It looks as though our Cane Creek Race on August 20 netted the club a cool \$1K! Special thanks to Neal Boyd and the usual faithful who manned registration, timing and scoring, course marshals and of course our sisters, the Dirt Divas for refreshment sales, benefiting their "Project Angel".

Chris Nixon, who was instrumental in acquiring a Bobcat for the club earlier this year, is at it again, working on procurement of a new blade attachment for the kitty. In addition, the club has located a trailer to transport the mini skid steer 'dozer to and from work sites. And as you can see above, there is plenty to do!

We recently took orders for ~70 Limited Edition Red/Black Trailblazer jerseys. Delivery is expected to be 6 - 8 weeks.

Mark your calendar now for the Big Stampede Ride at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Nov 12, 11:00 AM. This is a great fundraiser for the club, and volunteers are badly needed! Contact Neal Boyd (nboyd@carolina.rr.com) to volunteer.

It looks as if our recent migration to a new ISP has been fruitful. Contribute to the forums, drop us a line and let us know what we can do better to communicate with the mountain bike community!

And now, it's about time to finish my packing and hit that big bird to Colorado, where I'll join 8 others as we traverse the Kokopelli Trail from Fruita, CO to Moab UT. Hope to keep everyone abreast of our trip through website updates (if time and computer accessibility permit)...

See ya'll at the meeting on Thursday night or on the trail!

-Tom

Posted At : 11:38 AM. | Posted By : tom