



# *Volunteer Riders Newsletter*

President – Preston Teague

Vice President – Gary Pugh

Secretary – Alan Smeltzer

Treasurer – Brian Kimmitt

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## **Club News**

- **The new Volunteer Riders Forum is UP!!!**  
<http://volunteerriders.com/forum/>  
(more about this later)
- **Recent Work Days** – No recent “official” club work days, but it’s getting to be that time of year...
- **Recent Rides** –
  - The Vol Riders held our annual Turkey Burn Off ride at John Strange’s place in Bybee this year. It was a beautiful day to ride, and the event was attended by over 40 riders!
- **Sportsmen Group Rides** – If you prefer a more relaxed pace with more frequent breaks, then keep an eye out for rides tagged as “Sportsmen Group”.
- **Vol Riders Stickers!!** – Think we still have some of the Vol Rider stickers available to bling your bike out! Stop by the meeting this week and pick up a set for your bike or truck!! They come in sets of 2 stickers each, \$10 a set.
- **Windrock/Coal Creek permits** – Everyone, please be sure to purchase your annual permit for Windrock. They are starting get a bit tougher on enforcement of permits and even checking at the Brown’s parking lot. Don’t want the club sending out bad vibes by having a member get caught without one. See notes at end of newsletter for purchase info.
- **Annual Club Banquet upcoming** – Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> (see below for more details)

## New Volunteer Riders Forum is UP!

One of the goals of the club for this year was to get off of the Yahoo Groups page and set up a proper “forum” for the club to use. Well, we finally have that in the works. A forum has been added to our existing web site, and we are in the early stages of getting it configured and tested out. We would appreciate all club members going to it and getting signed up as soon as possible so that we can start the process of testing and troubleshooting.

For the moment, this is the link to the forum:

<http://www.volunteerriders.com/forum>

In addition to the web-based forum (which we presume everyone already knows how to use for the most part), we have added an integration for a mobile device based App called Tapatalk which can be downloaded from the Google Play or iTunes store. We believe that this will greatly enhance the usability of the forum on mobile devices, and encourage everyone to try this out.

In the not too distant future, we expect to have this set up for a secure connection using:

<https://www.volunteerriders.com/forum>

(In fact, you can already utilize the “secure link” however you’ll get a warning about the certificate not being valid or proper... The site is still perfectly safe to use.) The primary reason for this is that we believe that mobile devices are going to be requiring secure HTTPS connections for nearly all Apps starting in 2017.

While Alan Smeltzer and Blake Arnold did a lot of the research and back-end work getting the forum installed and functioning, Curtie Eldridge and Blake are planning on taking the lead in managing the forum. If you’re having any trouble getting set up or using the new forum, please reach out to one of them and they’ll be happy to see if they can assist.

***And as with every forum that has ever existed, remember this: If you ask a question (ANY question), you WILL BE FLAMED by the Forum Trolls and asked to (re)read the forum FAQs, the Sticky Threads, and to use the <bleeping> Search Function!!! (Come on, it wouldn’t really be a forum without the Trolls, would it?)***



## Words from the VP

### TALKIN' DIRT!

A Few Good Men.... or Women

We continue to see growth and success in the Volunteer Riders that seems to defy the times. The world is constantly changing and for the most part things that a lot of us like and enjoy start to fade away. Real life activities with actual objects are gradually being replaced with a hand held electronic device that allows one to see or do anything, anytime or anyplace. Laws and regulations although sometimes needed, can make it more difficult for us to do what we want. The mountain bike community is held in high regard and is given vast amounts of land and grants to build trails minutes from downtown. Dirt bikers... Well we basically have to sneak hours away to the hinder lands to ride on some pretty treacherous terrain because that is all that is available to us, and we live in fear that it will be taken away.

Despite changing times and obstacles, we continue to grow and make the club better. "Club", think about that term. It shows how long the Volunteer Riders have been around. No one has "clubs" anymore, they are called groups, associations, or coalitions. We have outlived our name. Despite the fact we have to drive an hour to go ride and build our own trails by hand, we are extremely fortunate. I talk with guys around the country that say they have no place to ride period. We have three different riding parks within an hour plus multiple MX tracks in the area. Modern communication tools, yes those same hand held devices that can keep people indoors, have made it possible to bring riders together making us stronger with more possibilities. President Teague with the flagging help of Craig, Steve, John, and others has led us into the most trail building and maintenance that we have had in years. We now have a dedicated group working on the website and forum thanks to Alan, Curtie, and Blake. We have Steve, Steve, and John that have let us ride their excellent trails on their property.

The motorcycle manufactures keep making better and better bikes for the kind of riding we do instead of something only good for hitting triples. We now have sticky tires just for getting us through nasty trails instead of tires developed only for a few California MX tracks.

OK, now that I have sucked you in, I will tell you the only tree blocking the trail I see is the lack of people willing to step up and do a little time as club officers. We have an abundance of people that like to pick the fruits of our efforts, but not many want the leadership role. I know what many are thinking, oh, I don't have the time. Time is a problem for all of us; life seems to get busier and busier. But then again, take a look at the amount of time one spends on Facebook, Instagram, all the different forums, subtract that from your day, well maybe life isn't so busy. First, being a club officer really doesn't take much time, but it is necessary to have a few people to do a little planning. One should be able to take a little pride in contributing to such a great group. Others when faced with actually helping out, may say, "I don't need no club to go ride". That may be true now that the infrastructure is in place, trails have been built, riding buddies have been met, but no club and all that gradually goes away until you are the guy with no place to ride, no one to ride with, and no shops selling the stuff you need to ride.

We just witnessed our nation's presidential election where a lot of crazy and marginal people stepped up to run, and they were willing to say or do anything to try and get elected. I would rather not have the crazies volunteer for the club, but surely out of our large group, we have a few people that can take a leadership role.

We currently have a very good group leading the club, but just because one does a good job it is not fair to expect them to do it forever. I have been camped out in the VP spot for a while, mostly in an advisory role to help the other officers, and would stay there forever, but I think it may be best for me to step down so people can step into the VP position to learn the ropes, then take over as president if they choose. I can still write stories for the newsletter or forum, I enjoy doing it.

I would like to see in the coming years more guys willing to step up and take a leadership role, do a little time, while grooming your successor, then step down. This will keep fresh and energetic people moving the club forward with new ideas instead of us getting stuck in a rut or on a log.

If no one steps up, well, I hear Hillary is available and she would like to be president of something or anything really bad....

See you on the trails, GP

## Upcoming Events/Club Rides:

- **Monthly Club Meeting** - Meeting this Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at Time Warp Tea room, 7:30 pm.
- **Annual Banquet** – Our annual Volunteer Riders Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Bearden Banquet Hall (5806 Kingston Pike, Knoxville). Doors open at 6pm and food starts at 6:30pm. Cost for the banquet is the same as last year. Vol Rider members are \$40 (this INCLUDES your 2017 dues), Guests are \$20, kids are \$10. RECENT NEW MEMBERS/RENEWALS: If you have already paid your 2017 dues (between Oct-Dec), it is just \$15 for the banquet cost. As usual, there will be a cash bar as well.

## New Members/Visitors

- Robert McMahon, KDX 220R
- John Howard, Husky 125TE
- Brad Dean
- Jason Bolen

## Permit Info

**For TWRA managed land** - Now known as the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. (WMA) (Royal Blue/Sundquist/Brimstone sections) This includes what we have known for years as Royal Blue, and what use to be the lower half of Brimstone. \$61 Annual Resident OHV Permit, **OR** you can get a type 01 hunting/fishing license (\$28) **and** a \$17 Type 093 WMA small game permit (for a total of \$45). You can get it at any Walmart.

**Coal Creek / Windrock** – Annual permits are \$88 and MUST be purchase at the Windrock General Store at the main entrance in Oliver Springs. Daily permits are \$17 and can also be purchased at the General store, at the Shell Station in Oliver Springs, or Ginger's on Hwy 116. Ginger's is on the left (coming from Briceville) just before you get to the intersection of 330.

# 2016 Club Points

Club points standings for December 2016.

Last Name	First Name	Totals
<b>Teague</b>	Preston	2500
<b>Roth</b>	Matt	1800
<b>Teffeteller</b>	Craig	1800
<b>Klepper</b>	Patrick	1700
<b>Goins</b>	Allen	1600
<b>Pugh</b>	Gary	1600
<b>Smeltzer</b>	Alan	1600
<b>Thomas</b>	Greg	1600
<b>Braun</b>	Jeremy	1500
<b>Collins</b>	Jason	1400
<b>James</b>	Kerry	1400
<b>Kimmit</b>	Brian	1400
<b>Hutcheson</b>	Richard	1300
<b>Teffeteller</b>	Tristan	1200
<b>Eldredge</b>	Curtie	1000
<b>Kelley</b>	Roger	1000