



Volunteer Riders Newsletter

President – Preston Teague

Vice President – Curtie Eldridge

Secretary – Blake Arnold

Treasurer – Brian Kimmit

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Club News

- **The Volunteer Riders Forum is UP!!!**
- **Recent Work Days**
 - Club work day scheduled for 1/21
- **Recent Rides**
 - The Vol Riders held our annual after banquet ride with 35(!) bikes attending a new record we think.
- **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. **Fees have increased to ~\$100.** 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.

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!

Just a bit of mud....

Coming off of what I believe to be a record setting banquet attendance of 104 attendees, was the traditional day after ride. In this case it turned out to be the week after ride due to severe cold temps. The week of waiting brought in spring like temperature to replace the freezing cold, but it had rained, a lot, like about every day. The decision was made to go ride the ATV trails from the main Wind Rock parking area to save our single track in the wet and also for members to update their Coal Creek passes.

Driving over I kept seeing giant SXS's, in motel parking lots, gas stations, biscuit joints, on the road, everywhere, and I am thinking this could be a mess. I got there early or so I thought, and I saw more SXS's, but the parking lot already had a good number of Vol Riders getting their bikes ready. One of the nice things about doing a club ride is seeing who all is there and greeting, being greeted, and start making excuses about why we might not ride well that day, most popular one being, "shoot, I bet I haven't ridden in 2 years, going to be a little rusty" The response is usually, "goin' to be a long day, my back tire is about slick" One of the great things about a ride like this is it is more of a social event than getting to ride the type of trail you want at the pace you want. You will get to ride with guys that you don't normally get to ride with and even meet new riders that you have never seen before. We had riders of all ages and skill levels. It was a treat to see Steve Lewis there, he is a real veteran of the club and we have not seen him on our club rides much in recent years. We also had former GNCC champion Mark Patterson and TKO stand out Ty Starr ready to play with us mere mortals.

I went about my business of unloading my bike and getting ready while I saw more bike riders pull in, and more came, and more... When it was all said and done we had 34 bikes in our posse and I was thinking this could become real difficult to manage and we discussed breaking up into groups, but decided to ride the first sections and see how everyone does and then break into natural groups based on progress. Mr. diplomat Rocky went to the guard that checks passes and brokered a deal to let us all go through without checking passes based on the promise that all Vol Riders are required to have passes. I think they were a little uneasy about it, but went along with it, so by gosh all of you guys that ride anywhere on Coal Creek property better have current passes. It can be intimidating to go to a riding area like this and see a lot of SXS's and jeeps and such, but I am willing to say that on this day with the mass of bikes we assembled, the SXS crowd had to be a little intimidated by us!

Did I mention it had rained? Yep, was a little slick, and difficult to avoid being pelted with big slobbery mud clods, now I know why some use tear offs.

We got to the first difficult section on a slick climb out of the exit of trail 24 and I saw good riders struggling so I was a little nervous about how my small bore 144 would cope. I let the trail clear a little and I went for it and discovered the little piston carried me up no problem and as I passed bikes lying on the ground I found my horn button to give a little toot, just had to remember to keep the rpms up to power the horn! On another section I was following Scott Cox on his CR500 who was motoring along at just a idle while I was in third gear turning some rpms and it was all I could do to stay with him. But he ran out of gas, twice, and I did not, so there...

It was soon after this we got separated into two groups and the one mistake we made was we kept waiting for the second group to catch up when we should have just declared it a two group ride which we eventually did, but only after much waiting. It wasn't that the second group was slow; more that they took a little different route.

We rode a variety of trails from mucky mud to long rock gardens, but most all flowed pretty well and I think they were all a lot of fun. The amazing thing to me was even with the diverse group we had and the slick conditions really did not see or hear of guys crashing or struggling to get through sections. The one exception was on a long slick uphill I encountered 2-3 bikes laying across the trail and I did not want to lose momentum, so I went into the ditch to get past and got hung up for a moment but got my tire cleared out and clawed my way up the rest of the way. Some never made it up that hill but were able to bypass it and rejoin us. I thank some of our veteran club members like Preston, Steve Lewis, Scott Cox, and Craig for laying back and helping everyone get through the trails. I have to say one thing, riding on days like this can be challenging, don't make things more difficult. Dirt bikes are one wheel drive, one wheel steering, just because your tires have knobs on them, doesn't make them still good. It is always wet this time of the year, it is a good time to put on a fresh set of tires, and if they are worn by Fall, no problem, it will be dry and you can get away with worn tires. You will find you have so much more fun with good traction and safer to boot. Give yourself a chance to succeed instead of setting yourself up for failure.

I know we have been doing things the past 8 years or so to bring the dirt bike community together and give them reasons to stay around, but I am just blown away by the growth and am really humbled when I see a turnout like we had last Saturday. We are truly bucking the trends of our type of activity going away and instead making it stronger.

I really appreciate some of our standout riders and racers for joining us even though it is not really your thing, I believe some of new guys and beginners get inspiration and can learn from you.

All in all, I think everyone had a great time, and I will venture to say this might have been one of the bigger turnouts for a general group ride since the 1970's!

See you on the trails, GP

Upcoming Events/Club Rides:

- **Monthly Club Meeting** - Meeting this Thursday, January 19th at Time Warp Tea room, 7:30 pm.
- **Club Work Day** - We have a work day scheduled this Saturday 1/21

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 \$100 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.

New Members / Visitors

Reed McCord - 3 bikes (YZ)
Bo Hedrick - rides Reed's bike

2017 Club Points

I'll have this available next month