



Volunteer Riders Newsletter

President - Preston Teague

Vice President - Curtie Eldridge

Secretary - Blake Arnold

Treasurer - Brian Kimmit

November 2017

Volume 23

Issue 8

News

- **November Meeting Report** – Thursday, November 16th at the Time Warp Tea Room in the Holler.

- 33 on hand for the nomination melee including the following:

Alan Smeltzer
Allen Goins
Andy Humphress
Blake Terry
Brent Beach
Brian Kimmitt
Craig Teffeteller
Curtis Eldridge
Daniel Maley

Ed Clark
Elijah Cavin
Gary Pugh
Greg Horner
Greg Thomas
James Thompson
Jason Collins
Jimmy Eubanks
Jonas Tankersley

Jonathan Flory
Kerry James
Kevin Jones
Mark Kotrys
Matt Roth
Michael Doyle
Mike Thompson
Patrick Klepper
Robert McMahon

Robert Woodford
Rocky Elrod
Tristan Teffeteller
Troy Beeler
Tyler Fleck
Wesley Lane

- **2018 Officer Nominations** – Confirmation voting at December meeting. Your choices are the following motley crew or anarchy:
 - For President: Craig Teffeteller
 - For Vice President: Curtie Eldredge
 - For Secretary: Ed Clark
 - For Treasurer: Brian Kimmit
- **Bylaw Changes Effective 2018** – The following bylaw articles were new or changed by majority vote:
 - Minimum age for club membership is 18.
 - Membership dues for 2018 are \$35.00.
 - Youth 17 and under may participate in all club activities and events with permission of and under the supervision of a Member. Youth are eligible to earn points and other awards. There is no membership fee for youth.
 - The annual membership fee is waived for club officers, i.e. no fee.

- **Report: SETRA Rnd 2, Volunteer Hare Scrambles at Slate Creek (Bybee, TN) – Sunday, November 19th**

The race summary on the SETRA website hit the nail on the head so I've decided to risk a copyright infringement suit and just post it as is:

“... 118 riders braved the cool weather and slip ‘n slide conditions from the previous night’s rain. Although brief, the short rain made conditions slick enough for a cautious first lap. After lap 1 the trail tacked up and made each lap better and better. No rocks were harmed during the race preserving them for next year’s hare scramble.”

While not an official club event, it's safe to say that this particular race is a major favorite of Volunteer Riders. John Strange hosted a major blow-out and if you couldn't make it we're just sorry 'bout that. The night before pre-race activities included a ham dinner and auction at the local elementary school followed by a soothing bonfire and bs session back at the cabin. A gob of folks chose to camp or RV on the property so keep this in mind for next year.

Due to the overnight rain, the course was shortened to about 12 miles, cutting out some of the nastier off-camber helicopter-rescue sections. Yes, there was a bit of slime, but the top three overall riders churned out consistent 20+ mph laps so somebody wasn't bothered by it. 118 gladiators bellied up to do battle with the course and themselves.

All in all, a fabulous day with a super host at a simply mahvelous venue, dahling. The following 28 Volunteer Riders were observed in attendance. Hope we haven't missed someone 'cause there weren't no stinkin' sign-up list for this one as it wasn't a club event. It was just eyeball contact. Asterisks indicate the few, the proud, i.e. the man-up boys who took on the great race gods.

Andy Humphress	Ed Clark	Patrick Klepper*
Aaron Cadle*	Gary Pugh*	Paul Teffeteller*
Blake Terry*	Jason Bolen*	Reid McCord*
Brian Kimmitt*	John Strange	Tony Allen*
Chris Irwin*	Josh Siljander*	Tristen Teffeteller*
Craig Teffeteller*	Keagen McAfee*	Michael Doyle
Curtis Eldredge*	Kerry James*	Mike Thompson
Danny Pressley	Mark Patterson	Richard Hutcheson
Derek Ford*	Marvin Harville*	Rocky Eubanks
		Steve Lewis

- **Report - Annual Turkey Burnoff Ride – Saturday, November 25th.** Around 31 hearty souls attended the ride around the Brown Flats area to work off a few Thanksgiving calories. Two groups motored out of the flats and headed their separate ways. By all reports, everybody had a cracking good time. Numerous photos and videos have been posted on the Forum so go have a look.

Here's the rabble roster:

Adam Watson	David King	Jeff Mays?	Matt Roth
Alan Smeltzer	Elijah Cavin	Jimmy Eubanks	Paul Teffeteller
Bob Howard	Gary Pugh	Joey Hall	Rocky Elrod
Brian Kimmitt	Greg Horner	Jonas Tankersley	Steve Staab
Cody Bock	Isaac Cadle	Jonathan Flory	Steve Staggs
Craig Teffeteller	Jason Bolen	Kevin Jones	Tony Allen
Daniel Maley	Jason Collins	Mark Kalchthaler	Zack Staggs
David Farmer	Jed King	Matt Ford	

Upcoming Events/Rides

- **Next Trail Workday** – Saturday, December 9th. Muster at Brown Flats at 9:00. Lots of downed trees to clear. Last chance of the year to earn double points.
- **2017 Banquet**
 - Jan 6, 2018 at Bearden Banquet Hall, 6:00 PM, Buddy's BBQ to cater, cash bar available.
 - Banquet fees:
 - \$15 per seat for members
 - \$15 per seat for minor children of members
 - \$20 per seat for spouses and other guests
 - There is no reduced price for children. This is because the club is charged by the caterer on a per plate basis.
 - One or more mailings will go out in December requesting feedback on banquet attendance. We really need a good count regarding how many folks plan to attend. Last year was something of a cormungle on head count. It messes with the caterer (and Brian's) respective heads. You don't want to see Brian come uncorked, now do you? So when you get your mailing, do us a favor and give us some feedback. Yeah?
 - By the way, if you're not a member or you haven't already renewed your membership for 2018, we will accept membership applications and renewals at the door.

Membership Stuff

- **New Members This Month** – A hearty welcome to the following new Vol Riders:
 - Blake Terry, Oak Ridge
 - James Thompson, Knoxville

- Here's the 2017 new member count so far. 38 keepers! Still time to attend the December meeting and get your applications in. New members who join in the final three months of the year receive full credit for their 2018 membership fee! Get on down to the Tea Room, hear?

Adam Watson	Greg Horner	Josh Siljander	Robert McMahon
Barry Reddick	Hall Cook	Katie Harris	Robert Woodford
Blake Terry	James Thompson	Keagen McAfee	Russ MacIntyre
Brock Stovall	Jeff Pridmore	Kelley Dobbs	Ryan Pugh
Chris Irwin	Jim Benson	Kenny Brown	Scott Bowling
Danny Tackett	Jim Gilley	Kevin Jones	Tyler Fleck
David Byrd	Joe LaCroix	Mark Kotrys	Wade Thiesen
Dustin Tindell	John Jennings	Marvin Harville	William Brawner
Ed Clark	Jonathan Ball	Nathan Glinski	
Elijah Cavin	Jonathan Flory	Reid McCord	

- Total 2017 membership stands at 94 warm bodies (not including youth) as of this month.

2017 Club Points

OK, so how are points calculated anyway? Attendance at a club *meeting* gets a point. Attendance at an *event* such as a club ride gets a point. Attendance at a scheduled *workday* gets two points. So, we want to see members attend all the functions they can, but we especially want to recognize the worker bees. There's at least one more work day left in the year. Last chance to load the deck and gain double points for your efforts.

The following 45 folks have contributed at least one workday this year. Several have contributed a lot more than that. *Thank you!*

Alan Smeltzer	Ed Clark	Mark Patterson	Russ MacIntyre
Allen Goins	Gary Pugh	Matt Roth	Ryan Pugh
Andy Humphress	Jason Bolen	Michael Doyle	Scott Cox
Brad Bochenek	Jason Collins	Mike Thompson	Scott Lee
Brandon Hall	Jeremy Braun	Nick Staggs	Steve Staab
Brent Beach	Jimmy Eubanks	Patrick Klepper	Steve Staggs
Buddy Berney	John Strange	Paul Teffeteller	Tony Allen
Chris Wiegand	Josh Siljander	Preston Teague	Tristan Teffeteller
Craig Teffeteller	Justin Cox	Robert Ball	Troy Beeler
Curtis Eldridge	Kerry James	Robert Woodford	Tyler Fleck
Daniel Maley	Mark Kotrys	Rocky Elrod	Zack Staggs
Danny Pressley			

Talkin' Dirt With Gary Pugh

Putting Yourself on the Line

How many times have we heard, "Why did the chicken cross the road"? Well, it could have been the chicken just wanted to prove to the armadillos, possums, skunks, and turtles that it could be done. I am sure there are a few "cocky" chickens out there that did it just for that reason, but I like to think it

was all in a quest to see what was on the other side. Whats this got to do with dirt bikes you may be asking, well hang on.

I sometimes think I was born to race, from when I was a kid, whether it be just running, bicycles, or anything with wheels. As it turned out I got involved in powerboat racing at a young age and it turned into a career of sorts and I did it for many years. Racing can take it's toll on you though, constantly working hard and being concerned with every lap, every heat, every race and how it would affect your quest to win a championship, especially when you have sponsors to report to. I finally decided to retire at the end of the 2007 season after a very successful run and sponsorships started drying up due to economic conditions. I started spending more time with my hobby of riding dirt bikes, but I shut down my competitive side and never entered any races for many reasons, but mostly just fear of what may be on "the other side of the road"

Between going to the TKO every year and the Volunteer Hare Scramble at John B's, I had seen plenty of racing, but always from the other side of the ribbon, and I always wondered what it would be like. I left several of these events wishing I had given it a try and would vow to do it "next year" I kept telling myself once I find a bike I am really comfortable on and get out and ride enough to be in shape and familiar with how the bike handles, that I would enter a race. I credit Clyde Williamson for encouraging me, he told me, "If you just show up, you will lap everyone that stayed home on the couch", and those words emboldened me to announce rather publicly, that if we got lots of rain, I would enter the race at John B's. People would look at and say, "You mean if it doesn't rain?" Nope, I am not very fast, but I relish difficult conditions, it was the same way when I raced boats, I just hit another gear when others backed down.

Racing has a way of being brutally honest, it has a bad habit of telling the truth and exposing weaknesses. Not like other sports where you can blame poor results on stupid judges, crooked referees, or team mates that aren't performing. Unlike trail riding where we can evoke an image of speed at least to ourselves, but hopefully to others, but hedge with, "I haven't ridden in two years, my back tire is worn out, I'm just here to ride sweep today", all in the name of preserving our image of being blazingly fast.

I am not saying racers have big ego's, some do, some don't, but some of us have rather fragile ego's, and racing has a way of quickly smashing them. One of the fears of "Putting yourself on the line" (starting line), is you may find out that you just are not very good, and so it is safer just to watch. Kind of like keeping your mouth shut and letting others presume you may be ignorant rather than open your mouth and remove all doubt...

So as the weeks got closer to the Volunteer, I had been riding a lot, getting in shape and feeling good on my bike, the desire got stronger and stronger to enter the race. I think I felt it was something I had to do, just to see what it was like, to see what was on the other side of the ribbon. All the years racing boats, I always would get nervous and have butterflies on race day, and would have to force myself to eat so I would have nutrition for strength and stamina, and I feared this would be the case again, but I was never so relaxed as I was for this event, once again, I really felt like this was something I had to do or I would forever regret it.

Race day arrived and I had gotten my wish, it had rained pretty heavy the night before, and I was hoping my bold proclamation of wanting rain did not come back to bite me. We were all set up and ready when Patrick Klepper comes rolling in, stops, hangs his head out of the truck, and asks, "Anybody got a bucket, I need to throw up?" I just smiled, and thought to myself, I'm ready! My one concern was the fact that I had never gotten on a dirt bike and ridden for two hours without stopping for a lot of breaks the way we do on a trail ride. I had ridden four laps at Johns on our club day, but had a 20 minute rest in between each time. I joked about stopping for a Snickers bar during the race, and I decided that was exactly what I would do if I needed to, heck, I wasn't racing for a championship, this was just for fun, and surely I'm in better shape than some of the guys in the race.

It came time to line up, and the upper field was covered in bikes, I am not sure how many entries there were, but there were 118 that completed one lap, and I suspect there was a number of guys that did not complete a lap. My class was the last row and I decided that was a good thing because I didn't want to have to be constantly looking out for faster guys coming up from behind right off the bat. I had meant to practice some starts during the week, but did not get it done, so I decided to wing it. I thought it would be cool to get the hole shot and I knew my bike was capable of it, and I decided to start in second gear at half throttle, and if it did not go well, just drop back to stay out of trouble.

One by one, the rows blasted off with the drop of the green flag until only my row was left, TM Tony was lined up next to me. The flag dropped, everyone took off, but I was still sitting there, bike was silent. This bike starts first kick every time, hot or cold, I continued to kick and kick, then realized in my excitement, I had the throttle wide open. I backed it off, and it started instantly, I looked around and the field that moments ago was filled with dirt bikes, well, it was just me and John B with his green flag.

Ok, no need to get excited or distraught, we can't go anywhere but up from here and I proceeded to hit the trail. It was no time before I rounded a corner and saw bikes laying everywhere, "What? that's not even a hill, just a slight rise in a curve" I thought about cutting down the side of the bank to get around, but saw just enough opening to get through, brushing a few shoulders along the way. Next thing I knew I had caught the pack and was right behind Patrick and I saw TM Tony right in front of him trying to get around the bike in front of him. I could tell Patrick wasn't hooking up to well in the mud and I was waiting for an opportunity to pass, which came on the first slick climb. I moved to the right and was going by when he lost traction and slid into me, hitting my handlebar and taking us both down. As I was getting up, I heard and felt a hard impact, another bike hit me in the rear and took him down, he apologized, but hey, it was me blocking the trail. The others went back down the hill, to get another run, but my little 144 grabbed enough traction to get going the rest of the way up the hill and I continued on.

I never really tried to go fast, I just kept a brisk trail riding pace and wanted to be consistent so I could go the distance. I came up on other bikes and most would politely move over to let me by, just like if someone came up fast behind me, I moved over for them. It wasn't long before I rounded a corner to see a hill with bikes laying all over it, with clouds of steam rising from overheating and a line of bikes waiting to get through. This was probably my move of the race, without even thinking about it, I cut to the right and started climbing a steep hill covered thickly in pine trees. Before I could get any momentum, I got hung up on a downed tree, couldn't get traction, so I jumped off and threw the back wheel over the tree and got going again. Uh oh, this hill is a lot steeper than I anticipated, I may have made a mistake, as I ducked under some low limbs. The bike was still moving forward though, auto clutch was groaning, making some disturbing sounds, but at this point I didn't care as long as I was moving, I realized I had gotten even with the road block and the cloud of steam, so I managed to cut left and find a way back on the trail.

Not sure how many bikes I passed there, but I felt good about it, although, it left me a little drained, quickly caught my breath and got back up to speed and a good rhythm. I decided at this point that I was not going to let anyone else around me because it would be one of the guys that would just get in my way in the next tough spot. As I got close to the infamous creek section I was hearing a 4 stroke on my tail, and I chose to ignore him, and sure enough, halfway up the creek, the noise went away, and was never heard again. Later in the lap, I was coming down what was a cross between a creek and a drainage ditch, I was feeling good, standing on the pegs, and I could see and hear a crowd of people standing and cheering. Well, from what I know about watching hundreds of extreme enduro videos, when there is a crowd of people, the potential for excitement is real, however, I had temporarily forgotten that tid bit of knowledge.

I heard go, go, go, so I went a little faster, next thing I know, the trail disappeared, and the line went sketchily off camber to the left, leaving me looking at a big hole, I decided to gas it harder, jumped into the hole, landed perfectly and powered on through to cheers from the crowd. I decided it was good time to blow my horn, which brought more cheers, unfortunately the horn button stuck, too many

pressure washings I guess, so I was pounding on the button while negotiating a creek bed until it stopped and I decided no more horn for today. As it turns out, I later found out they were saying, "whoa, whoa, whoa..."

I dropped down the hill into the check point to finish my first lap, and I was expecting someone to come out with a Walmart type scanner to score me, but nothing happened, so I asked "What do I do?" They said, "Keep going" so I did. As I was leaving the check point I saw a lit up digital screen with a big number two on it, and I wondered what that meant. Could I possibly be in second place in class, or did that just mean I was starting my second lap? Either way, I was feeling pretty good, I was not tired, bike was hooked up, and I had not embarrassed myself too badly. I continued to catch bikes occasionally and move on by, each time building my confidence. Later in the lap, someone was coming fast which I surmised was the leader and I let him around. He had a pretty good lead based on the time it took for the next guys to come around, which seemed like a group of three, one of which was Drew Kirby, and I felt pretty good about being able to just go wide on a corner and let them through without me losing much time.

It was one of the tougher things in the race though, trying to get out of the way quickly sometimes put me in a precarious off camber section, and it would take a while for me to get my rhythm back. The lap was pretty drama free and I decided that I would pay more attention to the scoreboard at the check point this time, sure enough, it looked like I was indeed second in class, but eleven minutes behind the leader which I was pretty sure would be TM Tony, and knew I couldn't catch him. I was cautiously thrilled, and knew I just needed a smooth lap to maintain and have a good day.

Another thing I had never done was drink water on the fly, so I had rigged my drink tube with velcro stuck to my chest protector and in some of the transfer sections I would slow down and take a drink. I still had not gotten tired, but it was at this point I realized that my right hand was semi permanently stuck in the shape of a throttle tube. I coasted and flexed my hand and all was good again. Some of the leaders continued to come around but not many as I thought, so for the most part, I was riding by myself. Later in my final lap, I let someone through thinking they were one of the leaders, but then I realized he was not that much faster than me, fearing he could be in my class, I picked up the pace and we battled, and I got back around him. It turns out it was Blake Terry, Joe Terry's Grandson, and he was not in my class, but that family has some pretty good racing heritage. With the quicker pace, we managed to pass another five or six bikes before the finish, improving our overall.

When it was all said and done, I still felt good, got second in class and 66th overall after starting dead last, which by racers standards may not be very good, but for me, I was thrilled and had a huge sense of accomplishment, and just a great feeling for being part of the same race as Drew Kirby, Will Presson, Clyde O, Teffetellers, and many others including some of my regular trail riding buddies. It was great experience stepping out of my comfort zone, and putting myself on the line, and by the way, I did lap a lot of guys that were home on the couch....

See you on the trails, and maybe on a starting line, GP

Infomercials and Factoids

- **Vol Riders Decals** – We now have a restock on the fender decals. Right now, you can only get them at a meeting. Also, we've still got hats and tee shirts. Deck yourself and your ride out. Do it!
- **Permits to ride on 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 used 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.

- **Windrock/Coal Creek watershed ride permits** – Checked the Windrock website this month to make sure this blurb's still current. Annual permits are still \$100 (including tax). The best and possibly the only place to get them for sure is at the following location:

Windrock General Store
912 Windrock Road,
Oliver Springs, TN 37840
(865) 435-3492
<http://www.windrockpark.com/>

Check your permit expiration date! The permits are annual and no matter when you purchase them, you get a full year's use before they expire. Continue to enjoy 75,000 acres of the best riding area that you're going to find. Don't get embarrassed by having an expired permit on a club ride at Windrock. That would be tacky.

- **Postscript** – I keep saying that Gary's musings just can't get much better and then he stuns me. Just for the record, remember that what you read here is copyrighted. Check with Gary before you pass his work along. This month's newsletter again edited by Ed Clark with lots of help from others . If you would like to submit opinions, articles, tirades or just generally help producing this letter, please contact Ed. Look him up on the forum and send him an email or text. Ta.
- **Links and Other Stuff You're Sure to Need**
 - **Volunteer Riders:** <http://volunteerriders.com/>
 - **Forum:** <http://volunteerriders.com/forum/index.php>
 - **Time Warp Vintage M/C Club (and Tea Room Info):**
http://www.timewarpvmc.org/tea_room.htm
 - **Windrock:** <http://www.windrockpark.com/>
 - **TN Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) License Info:**
https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/twra/attachments/License_Codes-_J1.pdf