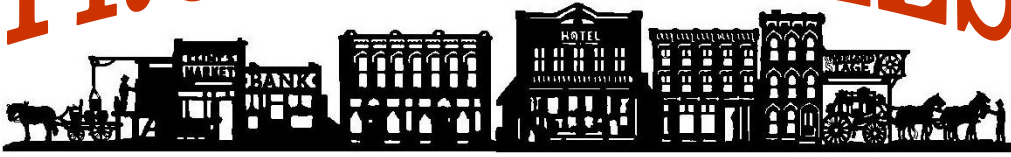


FRONTIER TIMES



Volume 15 Issue 5 January 2019

Trail Time for Volunteers

Oh boy that looks like fun, trail work that is. In a shrinking pool of available help, how does the club convince members work parties are where the fun is?

On the one side there are the board members and trail bosses involved in trail work, the other side, club members wondering if they should get involved.

With today's many demands from work and family, there is only so much time in the day for any of us. Perhaps with more time, more people would volunteer? Since we cannot make time easily, we must manage what we have carefully.



Work parties are small sized groups of members setting to various tasks out on the trail system. They range from scouting new trail sections, bridge and culvert building, brushing and clearing, and sign placement and removal.

Organizing work parties falls to the trail boss whose area it will take place in. Most times work parties are not planned well in advance. They are usually short notice. This is due mainly to time and weather factors. Hunting season closes down much of the woods and fields in the fall. This can push projects to either late summer or until the week before Christmas. Weather can determine whether work parties happen. This season has been slowed or stopped because of rain and muddy conditions.

Your local trail boss must weight which projects can be done in the time available. Then the help must be found. Sometimes as little as a couple of hours warning is all that occurs. With such short notice, getting the word out can be very difficult for someone trying to get trail materials, equipment lined up, and transportation as well. Very often the trail boss knows a couple of reliable helpers he can call on. That is why most club members never know about trail work parties.

Set up your account

Download the free app for iOS and Android or visit Remind.com to sign up.



Club members having fun on a work party in the Town of Wright.

Getting the word out has been an issue. Once in a while notice is given on the club website or Face Book page. This process takes time due to the trail boss having to contact the proper person in charge of the website or Face Book page.

A much more direct method are text alerts sent to club members phones and email. The Club is using an app call Remind. Once downloaded and installed,

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What's Cooking?

Skip Murrell reports working on an S70 extension which would connect to Thatcher Park. This trail will take another year to hopefully get State approval for Margaret Burke Preserve.

The Club is looking for a trail boss volunteer to take charge of the Charleston section of C7E. This is a long trail and much of it is on state land.

A Dollar General store is being built near where S72 crosses Rt443 in East Berne. Across from the Mobil Mart.

Trail Log



Northern Area

Burtonsville/Charleston C7E - John Scrima - Signs still need to be put up.

Mariaville C7B - Mark VanWoeart - All signs up and ready for snow.

Sloansville C7F - Laudy Hoyenga - C7F is signed and ready to roll. Local trail to Stockyard nearly ready.

Central Area

Esperance/Delanson C7E - Tom Rulison - Esperance village area needs a better route through it. Residents are not happy with current trail. Looking for help in finding alternate routing.

Duanesburg C7B - Dominick Friello - Signs all up, removed a lot of downed trees. Widened C7B near Schoharie Tpk. Washout area near Weaver Rd needs work. New route near Scotch Ridge Rd to be used.

Wright C7B - Joel Church - New route for C7B west of Benninger Rd, please follow all signs and stay quiet near house.

Southern Area

Township S70 - Skip Murrell - S70 all set except for a tree the landowner is using for a gate. I've talk to him and he will take care of it. He wants to re-use it and does not want a regular gate.

Knox C7B - Orvil Bates - Trail S71 is closed at this time. Most signs are up.

Maple Inn S73 - Donnie Bauer - Trail straightened and signs are up. Lake is not safe, stay off.

East Berne C7B/S72 - Brian Buchardt - Signs are up and trail is ready.

Trail Boss Pics



Left: A skid-steer at work smoothing out a bumpy corn-field in Knox.

Below: Matt Church works on re-decking the bridge behind the Esperance ball field.



Andy Fielding placing signs along Knox Cave Rd on trail C7B.



Trail Marshal says...

Please Don't Run Over Signs

Signs are very important to the safety of all riders. If they get knocked over, they cannot warn riders.

Many hours are spent going around putting up the trail signs. Most times signs are put up after hunting season. If done before, some signs have become targets for unsuccessful hunters.

This late in the year signing can be difficult due to frozen ground and or snow. Holes must be made in the ground prior to sign post going up. To break through the frozen top soil, a heavy metal bar is used drive open a hole about 8 to 10 inches deep. The post is then driven in using a sledge hammer. The sign may have to be attached to the post, if not already there with a cordless drill. Quite often the weather is very cold while doing this work and drill batteries go dead quickly. This requires having multiple batteries on hand. Having to carry all this equipment well out into the field is a problem without a UTV.

When a sign post is struck and run over by a snowmobile, generally the post snaps off at ground level. This leaves about 10 inches of post buried in the ground. Meanwhile the post has grown shorter if used again.



Benninger Road Reroute

Please be aware that trail C7B has moved due to landowner request on the west side of Benninger Rd. Follow all trail markings and when passing near the home, go slow and ride quietly. We all need to be mindful of just how close to the house we are.



Thanks go out to the club members who helped mark the trail reroute, MaryAnn Nickloy, Tom Goodman, Brian Buchardt, Skip Murrell, and Joel Church.

There is plenty of snow fence to help guide the snowmobiles. Now the rest is up to the riders! Go slow and quiet thru this area please!



Schoharie Local Trail Work Begins



The old bridge lodged in place, downstream.

Murrell, trail boss of Township S70 trail, working with Sheldon Ogsbury and Russ Gleech worked to re-open this trail. They cleared a loop trail to the creek and back to the big dead tree off C7B. The creek currently is not passable, unless the water level drops greatly or the old bridge is recovered.



Working with a 40' bridge in the woods is not easy.

able yet, but the hard work is done. There is still work to be done, fixing the deck and adding ramps at each end.

It is hoped one day that the trail will connect once again with the village of Schoharie.

For those club members who remember, years ago a trail ran from north of the village of Schoharie, near the Carrot Barn, up Barton Hill and connected with C7B near Rt 146. Some time back a flood took out a bridge. With the bridge missing, the local riders seeking to get to C7B resorted to creating their own trail. This caused major issues with the landowner and resulted in a portion of C7B being closed this fall. In an effort to stop riders from trespassing, Skip



Hoisting the bridge up into position.

Last weekend Skip, Sheldon, Russ, Chris Croteau, and Steve Fronk pulled the old 40' bridge out of the creek and set it back over the creek. It is not pass-

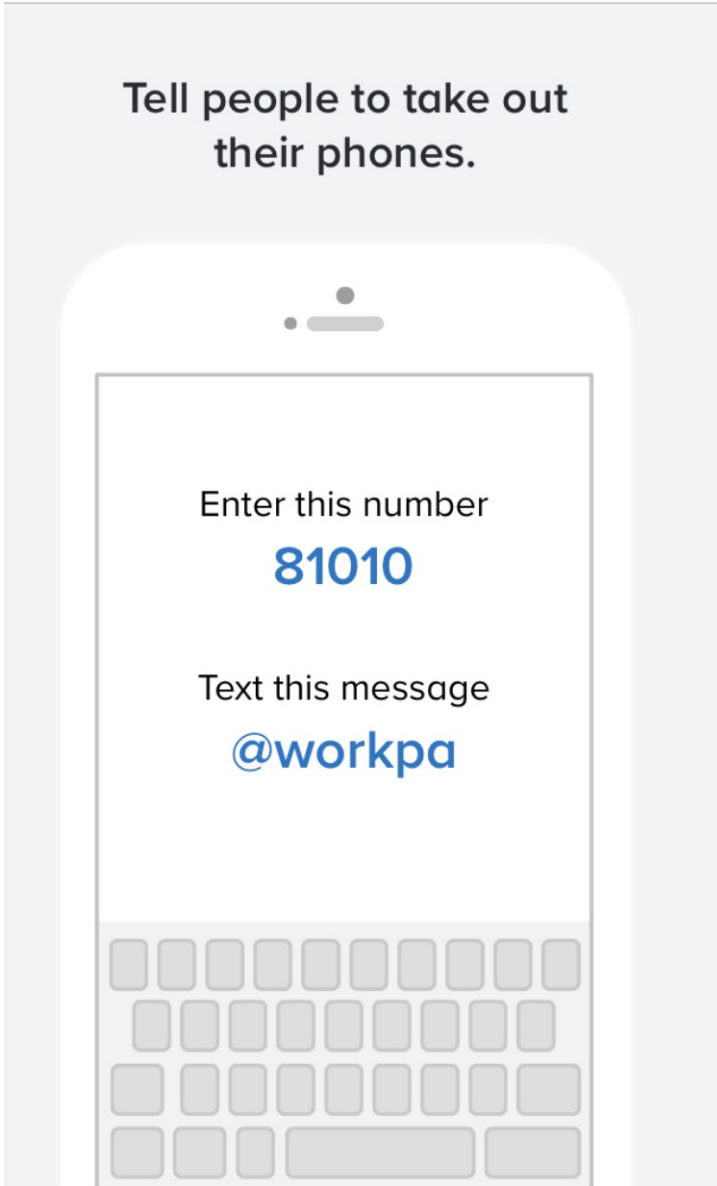


The old bridge set back in place!



Text Message Instructions

Tell people to take out their phones.



Instructions for setting up the app on your smart phone.

the club member signs up using an email address and creates a password. They then join the group Work party. This will allow trail boss to notify members quickly of work parties.

With a little work, communication should improve. This way all of us will know when the party is on!

Any issues working with the app please contact MaryAnn Nickloy at (518-657-1047) VicePresident@FrontierSno.com



Club Folks



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President	Chris Bukowski
Vice President	Mary Ann Nickloy
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Secretary	Sarah Burnett

Trail Boss Contacts

Brian Buchardt	East Berne	872-1878
Orvil Bates	Knox	872-1171
Joel Church	Wright	895-5451
Laudy Hoyenga	Sloansville	868-2092
Dominick Friello	Duanesburg	860-0736
Mark VanWoeart	Mariaville	376-0063
John Scrima	Burtonsville	875-6078
Tom Rulison	Esperance	728-9551
Skip Murrell	Township S-70	867-1235
Donnie Bauer	Maple Inn S-73	337-1985

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