

May 2011 Volunteer Weekend

Those of you that did not make it up missed a great work trip. It was quite warm and no RAIN in sight. We had a new member -Leo Nunnink- show up to work. Between Leo, Dean, Andrew and Harry the stories of Military life flowed freely and liberally. You all are familiar with the "UniBomber" but we had the "DeanBomber" with us. We discussed what life under the sea in a sub for 6-9 months was like, Red October and Bimini. Trail work and life around camp was hilarious. You all missed a treat.

Wednesday- It rained so Jim and I walked the trail behind Partnership cutting briars, rhododendron and cleaning out water bars. Harry went down to the river and checked on the blow downs and marked with flags the new spring that had sprung up between rock water bars. Pizza for dinner.

Thursday - Chris, Jim, Harry and Bill met at 615, Laurel Creek Bridge. Harry and Chris traveled over to 623 and cut the blow downs north on the trail up to the new wilderness area. Bill and Jim went south on the old AT cutting briars and surveying the work to do on that trail with K-rock in July. We made a loop and came back by the new AT at the bridge. We camped Thursday evening at Walker Gap.

Friday - Chris and Harry traveled back to South Fork of the Holston and cut blowdowns going North on the AT. Bill and Jim met with Buford about cutting the meadow on Chestnut ridge, then hiked up to the second gate and got it ready for Buford and the mower. Bill and Jim repainted the blazes going N from Walker Gap. On the way back we check the puncheons at Tilson Mill and the Tilson Farmstead. Of course we came across Aubrey doing his water testing, cutting the puncheons and walking his section. Charlene and Walt work on there section lopping. Leo joins us at K-rock for a fabulous Atilla cuisine of Dump stew, beer, and Jim's microwave dinner along with mashed potatoes and green beans.

Saturday - Atilla cooks breakfast for 12 and 8 show up. Chris heads out to Glade Springs for Disaster Relief Training, Andrew heads out to Chatfield Shelter, Barbara goes to Mt. Rogers to hike, and the rest of us head to the Kegley Property. Going north from the gravel road where the AT and the farm road intersect we installed approximately 40 feet of cribbing and turnpike to alleviate the muddy conditions. After completion of that work we headed south across the gravel road and rehab 12 waterbars and check dams. Workers on this project were, Drew, Leo, Jim, Harry, Bill and Herb. David John, David Faucette, Hayden Faucette, Kelly Watson stayed at Stony Fork hiked and worked from 222 to Olystery. Barry Hester worked from I-77 to 615. Charlene and Walt work on Beaver Dam I and also prepare a fine meal of grilled chicken, Pecan Pie and Carrot cake. Andrew arrives late for dinner and almost misses it, Barbara did not show up on time and had to eat Atilla's left over Dump Stew. We washed dishes, swept the rest rooms and new showers along with cleaning up the kitchen. Saturday evening around the picnic table was just hilarious. You had to be present. In fact the whole day was just like that.

If there is an error or factual omission Atilla apologizes. The Secretary was not present to record the actual facts and stipulations about the evening.

PS Harry and Chris cut the meadow from US-11 to stile. They also changed the oil in the DR Mower.

Workers:

Bill Boudman 5, Jim Houck 7, Drew Jones 2, Walt & Charlene 2, Harry 5, Chris Bracknell 2, Leo Nunnink 2, David Faucette 2, Hayden Faucette 2, Kelly Watson 2, Andrew Mitchell 2, David John 2, Barry Hester 2, Herb MacDonald 1, Aubrey Arrington 1.

Bill Boudman (Atilla) Trail Supervisor

