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Tarheel Trailblazers Monthly General Members Meeting - First live Meeting in 2021
Thursday August 5, 2021 7:30PM
In Person Meeting at South Main Cycles

Pre-meeting Ride: Rocky Branch Park

Call to Order: 7:30 pm
Adjourned: 8:30 pm
Attendance: approx. 20

Board Members Attending: Bryan Hall (President); Bruce Euler (Secretary)

Trail Coordinators: B Hall (Purser Hulse); B Euler (MIPT); Hank Grey (SWDP); RBP Committee; Luis M (Ballantyne); Brian A. (Airline Bike Park); ????

Honorable Mention:: Eric Smallwood (Cramerton P & R Director), Matt Malone (owner Nature Trails, LLC.), RBP Committee Members

Attendees:

- **7:30-7:35** B Hall opened meeting and presented Agenda

Agenda

- Numbers
- The Colonel Bike Park
- Rocky Branch Park
- Airline Bike Park
- BYT
- Brown Mill, Concord

Club Business: 635 members
\$43,600 (RBP fund)
September Meeting will be a committee meeting (Location and Type TBD).
October Meeting will be for board nominations (Location and Type TBD).

Trail Update:

Brown Mill, Concord: Parking lot is built and the trail is open for use. Grand Open/Ribbon Cutting scheduled for Sept. 2. Trail has been getting great reviews and looking forward to the ribbon cutting.

Colonial Bike Park (formerly COI. Francis Beatty Park) Charlotte: Construction on a new intermediate flow trail will begin in November. Bike raffle raised an additional \$15,000.

Airline Bike Park: 130 acre, 100 ft elevation, currently 6 miles of single track and an advanced jumpline. Met with EMS meeting on 8/4/21 to discuss emergency access and response. Need to install entrance kiosk and trail signs. Created parking for about 30 cars (more to come). Looking to have a soft opening on 8/14/21. Initially the park will be open on a limited schedule (weekends and some weekdays as allowed). Some trails will change direction daily (CW odd days and CCW even days). Now posted on website and street address is 8101 Dixie River Dr. Charlotte.



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Trails (cont.):

Special shout-out to the following for assisting in getting a parking area created that allows us to open Airline Bike Park:

Vulcan Materials Company (donating 110 tons of crushed stone)
Blythe Construction (providing hauling to deliver 110 tons of stone)
Community Trail Designs (for providing machine work and design)

South West District Park (SWDP): Currently constructing a stone arched bridge that will be an under and over trail feature (check SM for details). New intermediate trail (Abu Run Trail) is about 85% complete. The trail builders are looking to open the new trail sometime in early fall. This will bring trail mileage up to over 4.5 miles with some more to come. They created a Go-Fund-Me and have raised over \$1250.

Mountain Island Park Trail: Complete new intermediate $\frac{3}{4}$ mile trail (called K2) bringing the single track mileage up to 4.2 miles. Trail builders have another 2.25 miles flagged and will start construction this fall. Recently secured two Walmart grants for \$3000 and \$1000 to help with trail costs. Also the City of Mt Holly approved their budget which included funding for additional future features.

Rocky Branch Park: Committee members Bavid Baker and Sarah Kaufmann along with Matt Malone (Nature Trails) presented an update.

CTT is complete from Belmont to Cramerton (approx. 1.25).

The green loop (named Canopy) is completed (approx 1 mile). Both trails have had a soft opening, official ribbon cutting and grand opening scheduled for August 7, 2021. Current single track mileage including the Canopy trail, and legacy trail is about 2.5 miles.

Blue zone (intermediate/advanced) has started construction and is scheduled for opening in late October/November.

A beginner / intermediate 1 mile of single track will be built in Cramerton, this section of trail has been funded and scheduled to start construction in November.

Fundraising has started for funding the Advanced Zone and Skills area (fundraising goal will be \$100K). The committee and THTB have raised about \$225K for the project so far.

Eric Smallwood (Cramerton P & R) spoke about long term goals of stringing together an epic trail route in Gaston County. Eric also spoke about how this project has become the first intra-city park in the county.

Ballantyne District Park: The trail builders have machine work scheduled to improve trail.

New Business:

Luis M. had asked about creating a trail building and maintenance clinic for Trail Coordinators.

This has been previously discussed by the EB and is in the process of being planned and scheduled.

NOTE: Matt Malone would be glad to donate his time to assist in creating and conducting a trail clinic.

Jack Crouch (founding member) asked about Spencer Mountain (near George Poston Park). This has always been a desired area for creating MTB trails. He stated that this may be possible because of recent discussions with some powers to be. No specifics at this time.



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There was a willingness by the club (and members present at the meeting) to work with PASA and land owners to try and make access to this prime mountainous area possible for future trails.

Special thanks to Mills Davis and South Main Cycle for hosting the meeting.

8:30 PM Adjourned