

The Pine Mountain Trail

Newsletter of the Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc.

37th Year 1975-2012

Fall 2012

Number 108

“Service is the Rent We Pay for Our Space on Earth”



The Pine Mountain Trail...conceptualized, planned, constructed and maintained by dedicated volunteers.
No tax money is used to support the Pine Mountain Trail.

Pig Out 2012

The 2012 Pig Out will be at the same place as last year, Saturday November 3rd. Sorry for delay in getting notice out. Same place is the rock shelter at the end of the parking lot of the FDR Liberty Bell Pool on Ga. 354. See reservation form in this short newsletter for details.

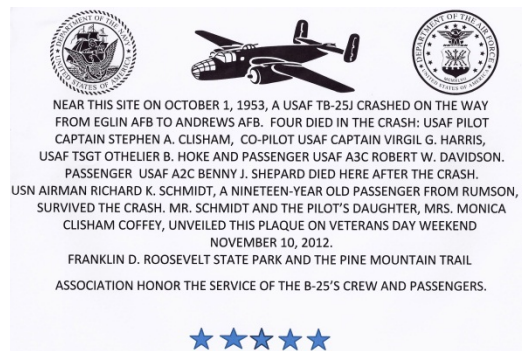
Pine Mountain Trail Association and FDR State Park To have 1953 B-25 Pine Mountain Crash survivor, and daughter of the pilot coming to FDR for Veterans Day weekend November 10th to unveiling ceremony of a plaque to be placed near the crash site.

Members of the Pine Mountain Trail Association had known of a military plane crash in FDR State Park back in the early 1950's and had tried to learn more about it. The crash site location was known by D. Neal Wickham when he laid out the PMT near Dowdell Knob. The second week of August we finally found details and then many more from a USAF crash report.

The crash involved a USAF TB-25J which took off from Eglin AFB on October 1, 1953 with six on board. Two USAF men and one 19 year old Navy seaman were just passengers. All but USN Richard K. Schmidt of New Jersey were killed as the plane struck the mountain west of Dowdell Knob (right near our trail location) around 9:30 p.m. in fog and rain. Schmidt was found with a severely dislocated hip and minor injury to one arm, by four men from Manchester and Pine Mountain Valley who heard the plane fly overhead very low and knew it crashed. Schmidt recovered and was discharged from the Navy in 1955. He had not been contacted by anyone about the crash till I called him August 12th. My brother Eddie did an internet search, found the first details and then searched for phone numbers of a Richard K. Schmidt in NJ who might be about 78-79. The first phone number he found and I called was Schmidt, who said "Yep, I'm the guy who survived that crash." The trail association first invited Schmidt and his wife to be our and FDR State Parks guest for Veterans Day weekend November 9-11. They are coming. Thanks to a friend of the PMTA, on September 18, 2012 I talked to Monica Clisham Coffey of Maine, the daughter of the planes' pilot Captain Stephen A Clisham. Monica and her husband Dennis and other family members are coming to the park that same weekend.

On Saturday November 10th at starting 10 am, there will be a ceremony at Dowdell Knob Scenic area near the FDR Statue, to unveil a plaque to be placed on a large rock near the crash site. Visitors can later view the memorial rock and crash site (which is located right on the Pine Mountain Trail just 850 feet from the Dowdell Knob Scenic Area Parking Lot.) Those wishing to attend **are urged to arrive no later than 9:30 am**. You are urged to bring a folding chair.

The trail association is still collecting funds for the memorial plaque and the trip down for the Schmidts. Those wishing to contribute are asked to mail contributions to the Pine Mountain Trail Association- PO Box 5- Columbus Ga 31902 (and mark/note the contribution is for "plane crash memorial fund.") For complete details of the crash see B-25 crash in 1953 at www.pinemountaintrail.org For information about the ceremony or question on contributions, call PMTA Jim Hall at 706-325-4113 or 706-569-0497 in evenings. Below is a "draft" of the plaques wording (spacing and layout on actual plaque are different.)



Numerous volunteers from our membership have helped the PMTA grow and flourish for more than 36 years. We continue to grow. The scope and reach of our association in promoting and maintaining the **Pine Mountain Trail** will always be determined by our membership. Let's all do our part to keep the association vibrant and to spread the word about our trail.

The **Pine Mountain Trail Newsletter** is a publication by the Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc. People are encouraged to contribute articles, comments, questions and photos to newsletter editor JIM HALL. The editor and board members of PMTA retain the right to accept and /or edit any material submitted for publication. Mail items to: Jim Hall- PMTA Newsletter Editor – 6743 Audubon Drive –Columbus, Ga. 31909. You also may email items to the PMTA website.

Northface Endurance Challenge events October 13, 2012 ! from Jim Hall

Northface for the third year held their SE Endurance Challenge events in FDR State Park using our Pine Mountain Trail. The event director Nick Moore appreciates all the PMTA volunteers who help keep up the trail and the 35 who volunteered to help with aid stations, main events activities and as drivers. Nick was sent photos and updates as we cleared the trails again this year. Of course he was pleased we had kept the trail open as good as we had. PMTA volunteers worked right up to October 8th doing some final “dressing up” work along the trails to make them safer.

On October 13 at 5:00 a.m. the 2012 Northface Endurance Challenge 50 mile event runners left the starting point down across from the Liberty Bell Pool. Shortly after that, some seventeen PMTA volunteers gathered at Rocky Point Parking Lot and set up an “aid station” for runners. This being the third year the PMTA had handled Rocky Point Aid Station, we had our plan more together this year as volunteers. With a generator providing lights, we set up tents and tables, set out food and signs before the first runner arrived just after 8 a.m. Rocky Point Aid Station had 50 mile runners, 50K runners and Marathon runners come by it (something along the lines of 500 runners!) Thanks to Jim Halling, for taking the responsibility for another 12 folks volunteering to man Dowdell Knob/BooTop Trail Aid Station. The Georgia DNR parks division had two medical people on hand at each aid station. and this year we saw a lot of runners with scrapes, cuts, sprains and other running through the woods injuries. There were aid stations at all the other named PMT parking areas and down near the first of the trail on GA 190. These were manned by other volunteer groups.

Many thanks to the Georgia State Patrol from having two units along the road most of the day to help keep traffic slower.

The Pine Mountain Trail and FDR State Park saw a lot of new faces viewing and participating in the Northface Events. Hopefully some of these folks will come back at other times. Better still, is that from what we understand Northface will be back for another Northface Endurance Challenge on our trail. The events on our trail are the only events Northface does in the southeast U.S. By the way, the winning time on the 50 mile run was about 7 hours and 45 minutes!



GSP Officer TF2C JD Perry and Joe Skinner



A 50 mile runner is greeted by his family at Rocky Point



BooTop Trail Parking Area Aid Station



Busy time at Rocky Point Aid Station

(Renew early to avoid missing a newsletter issue)

Date _____ Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Work number _____ E-mail address _____

Membership Category: renewing member new member

12-month Individual \$25.00 Family* \$35.00 Organization* \$50.00
 Lifetime \$200.00 \$300.00 \$400.00 * for families and organizations, list names that cards should be issued to

I wish to volunteer with the following: membership public relations board membership assist with monthly hike
 help with monthly workdays newsletter contributions *Adopt-a-Trail* section

PINE MOUNTAIN TRAIL LOGO STUFF

The following is a list of some logo PMT items we offer. Prices are higher at retail locations (FDR State Park office which sells maps as does Outside World in Columbus.) Photos of the items are on the website at PMTA STORE.

	Member	Non-member
Maps-- (new 2012 edition)	\$3.75	\$4.50
Kids Map (2012 edition)	\$2.00	\$2.75
Patches --The Pine Mountain Trail logo patch	\$2.00	\$3.00
Medallion--Brass PMT logo hiking staff medallion. Photo of this item is on a hiking staff in the <u>photo gallery section of the website</u> .	\$3.00	\$4.00
PMT Pin - Brass with acrylic coating with a pin for your hat or vest on back	\$3.50	\$4.50
PMTA Car Tag—white, heavy plastic tag with full color PMT logo (reduced; were \$5)	\$2.00	\$2.00

If ordering from the PMTA cost is 50 cents shipping for maps, patches, decals and medallions. Live in/near Columbus? Call Jim Hall at 706-569-0497. Arrangements can be made to pick up items.

NEW! BootTop Trail/Dowdell Knob Road Parking Area

Back March 20th, a couple of us with the PMTA board talked with the DNR Parks Region Manager Eric Bentley and construction manager Joel Griffin along with FDR State Park Assistant Manager David Jordan about the possibility of working with us to establish a new parking area along Dowdell Knob Road at the Boottop Trail crossing area. More folks are wanting to park at that area to do a hike like over to Rocky Point and several times over the last couple years (especially when doing tornado cleanup last year) we needed to park in that area to head out on the trail to work. For the Northface Endurance Challenge events, Northface set up an Aid Station on the road at the trail crossing. With these reasons for the parking area in mind the DNR folks agreed and FDR Manager Desmond Timmons and Assistant Manager David, moved forward with a formal request for the parking area to be approved. We got the go ahead. The idea was that PMTA volunteers would cut the few necessary trees out, and the maintenance guys from FDR would help by removing the stumps and tops and doing the initial grading. On May 24th the trees got cut and May 28th the initial grading was done, Friday June 1 we worked with the park guys doing final grading and removing limbs, roots etc. That same day the PMTA paid for gravel and the FDR guys spread it. On Wednesday June 13, 2012 the area was paved. On October 13th, the parking lot was used to set up the aid station in for the first time. Like all parking areas in FDR State Park, you must have an annual or daily pass on your vehicle to park here.



2012 PMTA Board of Directors

Malon Wickham President	706-563-5160	Columbus
Richard Ramey, Vice President	706-323-3925	Columbus
D. Neal Wickham, Member Emeritus	706-507-4230	Columbus
Sam Burke, Finance	706-563-1635	Midland
Jim Hall, Secretary	706-569-0497	Columbus
Tom Berry, Treasurer	334-291-9568	Phenix City
Carl Carlson, Trail Maintenance	706-628-5336	Pine Mtn. Valley
Jerry Brown, Membership Chairman	706-323-9422	Columbus
Gus Callaway	706-668-0187	LaGrange
Jack Combs	706-643-5549	West Point
Tom Flournoy	706-324-4000	Columbus
Tommy Hadaway	334-705-6595	Opelika
Eddie Hall	706-327-3697	Columbus
Mark Hughes	706-302-0118	LaGrange
Craig Myers	706-882-3886	LaGrange
Jim Pound	706-323-1783	Columbus
Harry Pruitt	334-297-5673	Phenix City
Bill Vang	706-568-0611	Columbus
Joe Wade	706-324-7296	Columbus
Chris Largent	706-580-9549	Columbus



Daniel, Tamara and Mark Hughes-National Trail Day

PMTA Board

from Jim Hall

If you read the list above you'll see a new name (new to some, familiar to many.) **Chris Largent**, former Boy Scout who did a project on our trail years ago. You can find Chris most days at Outside World on Broadway in downtown Columbus. Chris is a great outdoor person whom we are proud to have on our board.

NORTHFACE Endurance Challenge markers. If you find some small clothes pins with colored ribbons attached along the trails. Please remove these. They were markers from the Northface event. Northface has these about every 100' for the whole race course, and hard as they try on two sweeps, they miss a few. So if you see one, take them with you (trash.) Also on some section of trails you may see some chem-lights hanging. These too were from the Northface events and were missed. Likely you'll only find one or two as the "sweep guys" did a great job picking up the near 700 of these put out along about 15 miles!

See clear wire ties with yellow tape attached on trees down near Mile 15 east? DO NOT remove these as they are markers noting locations for American Chestnut trees and sprouts. Along near Mile 15.2 there was this one American Chestnut sprout tree that had a bunch of burrs on it. Helen Hall found the below in mid- June. Still burrs visible in late September. Some of the burrs get pretty big.



.revised



PINE MOUNTAIN
TRAIL ASSOCIATION
2012 PIG OUT!
37th
ANNIVERSARY
OF THE PMTA



THE 2012 PIG OUT IS COMING November 3

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW. THERE IS A 1:30 P.M. HIKE. DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 5:50 P.M.. COME EARLIER (no later than 5:15). Check in beginning at 4 pm to visit or just relax.

Country's BBQ will cater the 5:50 p.m. "all you can eat" meal with BBQ pork, chicken and hot dogs* (*for all ages if you want one but let us know on the form below), slaw, baked beans, potato salad, Brunswick stew, sweet potato souffle, pickles and bread on (2) serving lines. We will have Country's Tea, bottled water, and a variety of soft drinks. For dessert is **Blue Bell** ice cream treats for all (a Pig Out tradition for the 12th year.)

We will have some adult and childrens door prizes!

Fill out the form below if you are coming even if wish to pay upon arrival. You can still mail by US mail your check with the form (or indicate on the form you will pay upon arrival.) **OR You can email us via [PineMtTrailAssoc. Jim@msn.com](mailto:Jim@msn.com) (this an underscore between the . _ J. Getting the mailed or emailed reservations to us on time helps us prepare for the dinner. To add folks after you mail the form in, call and leave a message at 706-569-0497. We need all mailed in reservations to arrive by November 1 at latest..... Cost is \$10.00 per person for members and guests, ages 13 and up. For children 3-12 the cost is \$5.00.**

Please make checks payable to: Pine Mountain Trail Association

Mail to: PMTA, PO BOX 5, Columbus, GA. 31902

On the outside of the envelope and on the check put : "PIG OUT RESERVATIONS".

2012 PIG OUT RESERVATION FORM:

Please make a reservation for _____adults _____children.

of hot dogs* _____

The reservations name is: _____

List the first and last names of all those coming with you so we can make a name tag for them ahead of time _____

-Enclosed is \$_____._____ or We will be paying upon arrival. _____

Number of non-PMTA MEMBERS (guests) in total above _____

PS..

Sorry for such late notice on Pig Out....Been busy working on the trail! Jim Hall

Pine Mountain Trail Association Newsletter

P.O. Box 5

Columbus, Georgia 31902



Check the **RENEWAL DATE** on the address label (above your name). Don't miss a newsletter--**RENEW** early. Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS for the PINE MOUNTAIN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

HIKES*	LEADER	MEET AT:	HIKING:
Nov 3 Sat 1 p.m.	_____	WJSP TV Tower PL	Pre PIG OUT hike on East End Loop 4 easy miles
Nov 3 Sat 5 p.m.	PMTA PIG OUT!	FDR Liberty Bell Pool shelter	(sign in around 5, dinner starts at 5:45)
Nov 10 Sat starting at 10 a.m. (arrive at 9:30)		Veterans Day Weekend Event at Dowdell Knob Scenic Area	
		unveiling of plaque to be placed near the 1953 plane crash west of Dowdell Knob.	
Nov 17 Sat 10 a.m.	_____	Fox Den Cove PL	PMT to MollyHugger Hill PL 5 mod miles
Dec 15 Sat 10 a.m.	_____	Dowdell Knob Trailhead PL	Dowdell Knob Loop 4.3 mod miles
2013			
Jan 1 Tues 1 p.m.	_____	FDR RV Camp Trading Post PL	Mountain Creek Trail 3.2 easy miles
		"First Day Hike"	
Jan 21 Mon 1 p.m.	_____	FDR Park Office PL	PMT to Country Store 3.8 mod miles

WORKDAYS* (Bring work gloves, water and your lunch. We furnish all tools and fun.)

Date	Time	Meet Carl Carlson at:
Nov 3 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Trading Post Parking Lot
Dec 1 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Trading Post Parking Lot
Jan 5 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Trading Post Parking Lot

(all workday meeting places subject to change, keep checking the website each month prior to a workday)***For all hikes and workdays, it is a good idea to bring water and a snack (a lunch if the hike or workday starts at 10 a.m.)** FOR INFORMATION ON WORKDAYS, CALL **CARL CARLSON** at 706-628-5336 or Jim Hall at 706-569-0497