The Pine Mountain Trail

Newsletter of the Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc. 38th Year 1975-2013 Fall 2013

Number 109

"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 2013

Saturday October 26th the 2013 Pig Out will be at the same place as last year. That is the rock shelter at the end of the parking lot of the FDR Liberty Bell Pool on Ga. 354. See reservation form and notice in this short newsletter for details.

Plane Crash Memorial on the PMT

Nearly one year ago, on November 10th the Pine Mountain Trail Association and FDR State Park held an unveiling ceremony of a plaque that was mounted on a rock near the site of the 1953 TB-25J plane crash. The survivor Richard K. Schmidt and his family, and daughter of the pilot Monica Clisham Coffey and her family came to FDR for Veterans Day weekend November 10th. For details of the event and crash check it out on the PMTA website. The rock and crash site are just west of Dowdell Knob on the Pine Mountain Trail. Each Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day (4th of July), 5 American Flags will be placed on the rock during the day in memory of the five men who died in the crash, and the banner to honor Mr. Schmidt, the survivor. Thanks to all who attended the unveiling event and helped make it the memorable day it was. Over 250 came that day. As you visit Dowdell Knob, take a few minutes and hike west on the trail just 800' to the crash site memorial rock.



Numerous volunteers from our membership have helped the PMTA grow and flourish for more than 38 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 and website. The editor and board members of PMTA retain the right to accept and /or edit any material submitted for publication or posting on the website. : Jim Hall- PMTA Newsletter Editor – 6743 Audubon Drive –Columbus, Ga. 31909. You also may email items via the PMTA website.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

From Jerry Brown

Current total Life members are 107 Families, 74 Individual, 17 organizations. We mail out 20 complimentary newsletters.

Annual member 168 families, 49 organizations, 123 individuals. That is 398 active memberships

We had 10 new organizations, 19 families and 12 individuals join the PMTA this past last year (course we lost a few too.)

We welcome the following new members to the Pine Mountain Trail Association

Organizational Life Membership

BSA Troop 555- Midland, GA

Family Life Membership:

Jean & Mark Swann- Warner Robins (had been PMTA annual members and became LIFE members)

Individual Life Membership

Kenneth Kilby-Woodbury

Annual Individual Memberships

Louis Perno-Atlanta Tonya Rau-Columbus Jack Miller-Sharpsburg Daniel Hall-Wentworth

Alton Hogan-Smiths Station, AL

John Olive-Mobile

Ronald Golden-LaGrange Kellye Whitlock-Clarks ville

William Foster-Milner Doug Riddle-Roswell

Cheryl Babik-Toccoa Falls

Carol Westbrook-Fayetteville

Trail Dames of Georgia-Clarkesville, GA

BSA Troop 75- Peachtree City BSA Troop 222- Bishop, GA

Annual organizational memberships

BSA Troop 230- Jefferson, LA

John Britt & Associates- Fortson BSA Troop 107- Columbus

BSA Troop 550- Warner Robins

BSA Troop 1166- Flovilla

BSA Troop 447 Conyers

BSA Troop 685- Metro Atlanta

Annual Family Membership

Michael and Lisa Selig-Ft. Mitchell, AL

Kimberly Williams-Fortson

Kevin and Christy Harp-Auburn

Terry & Elizabeth Cox-LaGrange

Steve and Angela Bode-Grantville

Billy and Jody Holley-Montgomery

Sebastian Millerd-Leesburg

Clifford Hardin-Ashford

Gregory A and Karla Duffy-Jacksonville

Kevin & Jennifur Tanner-Warner Robins

Wayne McComb-Columbus

Robert & Cheryl Moore-Carrollton

J and Tiffany Christian-Ft. Mitchell

Bryce and Tanya Beyler-Acworth

David Hehman-Pine Mountain

Robert & Amber Castellow-Columbus

Chris & Marlea Jeffries-Phenix City

James Harrison-Juliette

Alexander Rogers-Fairburn

Laura Lindeman-Atlanta

DateName			
Address Work numberE-1	mail addre		
Membership Category:renewing membernew member 12-month LifetimeIndividual \$25.00\$200.00 * for families and organizations, list			to
Family* \$35.00\$300.00 Organization* \$50.00\$400.00	1:	and a second back the	
I wish to volunteer with the following:membershippublic relationsboard memb help with monthly workdaysnewsletter cont			
PINE MOUNTAIN TRAIL LOGO STUFF The following is a list of some logo PMT items we offer. Prices are higher at retail loc			ı sells
maps as does Outside World in Columbus.) Photos of the items are on the website at PM Mem		.c. 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 Modellian, Press PMT logo hilling staff modellian, Photo of this item is an a	\$2.00	\$3.00	
MedallionBrass PMT logo hiking staff medallion. Photo of this item is on a hiking staff in the photo gallery section of the website.	\$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 Comade to pick up items.	lumbus? Call .	Jim Hall at 706-569-0497. Arra	ingements can be
What you need to know new or as a reminder on the Pine Mountain Trail	· E - D		T. T.
What you need to know new or as a reminder on the Pine Mountain Trail We have on our current (2012) Pine Mountain Trail map self-pay parking pass boxes at These are noted in a square as SPB. We put them on the map awaiting installation of the be in place. It is very important to have a Daily Pass displayed on your vehicle anytime of PMT trailheads along Ga. 190, at the WJSP-TV Tower, pool area or any of the roadside of can go to the park office and buy an annual pass good at any Georgia State Park for twelve PMT map, you will also see self-pay boxes at the Park Office, RV Campground, MollyH trailhead (2) and the WJSP-TV Tower Mile Trailhead (trail Mile 23.) As a reminder, the road to Dowdell Knob is NOT open all the time. The Dowdell's K8 8:00 p.m. from April 1-October1, from October 2- March 31 the gate closes at 5:00 p.m. the Dowdell Knob Trailhead or BootTop Trail Parking Area you can leave a vehicle at the backcountry permit visible as required). Gate is re-opened by 8 a.m. each day. We have on our map and have told folks for several years to call the 24 hour emergench have urged folks to call the park number instead of 911. All the 911 folks (either in Harriaround and call FDR! So save response time and call the FDR 24 hour urgent/emergency GOOGLE VOICE FDR ranger urgent/emergency contact number for FDR, in addition to the rangers on 706-663-4256 (a voice only number), call by voice OR TEXT the new "Gurgent/emergency number 706-801-5006. By voice you can leave a short message (inctransmits/sends the message as a TEXT message to the ranger on duty. As you know, wit you can get/send a text message and not a voice call. So the new Google number will be gate and the park numbers in you cell phone. What is urgent? If you are lost, turned at daylight on your hike and need help. If you have non-urgent, non-emergency questions (office during business hours 8-5 Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m 10:00 p.m. on Friday, and Sundays. As you hike along the Pine Mountain Trail system, and pass a backcountry campsite, to th	m. By the to you are park viewing point we months from the most of the most of the main 2. OOGLE Volude your red hold in the started on to the main the started on to the main the started on the wound have sie: want infield 8:00 a.m.	ime you read this both noted anywhere in FDR Stants.) Passes are \$5 per drom purchase date. If you PL, Dowdell Knob Scenicate down near GA 190 is ackpacking and start you overnight (with a copy of EDR number we show on either County) are going to 606-663-4256. Now there 4 hour number. If you down the county of the ready of the ready of the ready of the ready of the trail or your last known a safety concern, running formation on something) of 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays	ew boxes will te Park (our lay, but you u look at the ic Area and closed at r trip from of your our map. We o do is turn e is a new o NOT reach it of FDR often anger on duty vn location. g out of call the park s and

2013 PMTA Board of Directors



Rhonda & Richard Ramey

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RICHARD RAMEY

This year I join a long list of dedicated volunteers, serving as the President of the Pine Mountain Trail Association. It is an honor to do so, knowing that for almost 40 years those volunteers have been responsible for the construction and maintenance of the best trail in the State of Georgia, and consistently ranking in the top trails in the Nation.

The Pine Mountain Trail Association volunteers have been busy this summer keeping all of that lush vegetation clear of the trail and doing increased maintenance from the wear and tear of all the rain.

There are a lot of activities coming up, especially the "Pig Out", our annual membership supper to be held at the Park on October 26th. Of course we have guided hikes, work days, and other projects so be sure and check out the pages of the PMTA website.

Fall is in the air on the Pine Mountain Trail. The long wet summer has given us a green mountain with water in all of the streams, making it a perfect time to hike to enjoy the waterfalls of Pine Mountain. It won't be long before the changing of the colors takes place with our beautiful oaks, hickories and other spectacular hardwoods putting on their show of fall glory. Come hike with Us!!

NORTHFACE Endurance Challenge

If you find some small clothes pins with colored ribbons attached along the trails, please remove these. They were markers from the September 28-29th 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 dead 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! Thanks to all of the 27 volunteers from the Pine Mountain Trail Association who helped man Rocky Point and Boot Top Trail Aid Stations and the 5 volunteers who worked at the main event area down near the Liberty Bell Pool. It was great fun being part of making the runs happen along our Pine Mountain Trail for the 4th year! Go to the Northface Endurance Challenge website and see the results of the different races. It is still hard to imagine someone running 50 miles on our trail in just under 8 hours.



US Army Officers Doing Community Service Work

Back the first of May some 50 US Army officers in an armor leadership course came and worked on the trail with us clearing again Bethel Creek Campsite, carrying in pieces for a large bridge near Mile 21.8 and clearing one of the small CCC ponds in one day! Then the first weekend of September 45 OCS students came and we split them into two groups to rework the large bridge on the Pool Trail and clear the emergency access road down to near Beech Bottom Campsite (over a mile!). Then the second Saturday of September another 75 armor officers came and in about 2 hours helped clear out the large CCC Hatchery Pond down near Dead Pine Campsite. Those three groups gave nearly 900 man hours of work in three days! Thanks and we look forward to more classes coming from Ft. Benning to do a community service project on our trail.

The large CCC hatchery pond is going to be beautiful this winter when water fills it again.

Pig Out 2013 is coming Saturday, October 26th!

The Pine Mountain Trail Association annual dinner (Pig Out) will again be held at the rock shelter at the end of the parking lot of the FDR Liberty Bell Pool on GA. 354. If you are new to the PMTA, you will not want to miss this event. The Liberty Bell Pool is shown on your Pine Mountain Trail map. If you come east on GA 354 out of Pine Mountain, the pool area is on your left about 2.5 miles. If you come to the park office area from the west, go past the park office .4 of a mile and turn left onto the off ramp by the stone bridge. Take a left at the stop sign at the end of the ramp and go about .3 mile down hill to the pool area on your right. Meet and eat with other PMTA members at the 2013 Pig Out on October 26th. There will be a 4 mile easy pre-Pig-Out hike from the WJSP TV Tower Parking Lot on the East End Loop starting at 1:30 p.m. (so arrive earlier than that to sign the roster). Make your plans now to help us celebrate another great year and our 38th anniversary. We need your early reservations! Hikers who come to the 1:30 p.m. hike are welcome at the Liberty Bell Pool area just after the hike. The sign-in table will be set up by 4 p.m. Relax and visit with other PMTA members and guests. Please go to the sign in table first. If you have paid reservations (or need to pay upon arrival and made reservations) we will have pre-printed name-tags. Please let those at the sign-in table hand out or make the name-tags. Each person (adults and children) will receive a ticket to hold for door prizes. Having a name-tag lets us know you have signed in. In order to avoid a wait to check in, please arrive and check in between 4 and no later than around 5:15. So please help us out and arrive early. Scouts will again have a brief flag ceremony for us at 5:40 p.m., followed by the blessing. Dinner will begin serving at 5:50 p.m on 2 lines under a large tent outside the rock shelter. Country's Barbecue again will cater the meal with pork and chicken, hot dogs (upon request on your reservation form,) coleslaw, potato salad, beans, stew, sweet potato souffle and great iced tea. We will have soft drinks, and fruit flavored drinks (some diet) and bottled water. Back for the 13th year will be Blue Bell ice cream treats for all.

There will be a nice program presented by Bud Allen of Columbus, telling of his climbing Mt. Everest. Followed by some brief announcements and awards. We will have some door prizes starting with kids prizes. So bring the children. As always, you are welcome to bring non-member guests. We will have a limited supply of the PMTA logo "Stuff" items for you to purchase (mainly medallions, patches, maps and car tags). Please be prepared to pay for "Stuff" items separate from dinner.

The price of the Pig Out dinner is the same as last year (\$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 3-12). Please go ahead and make your reservations soon. We will have to hold reservations to about 140 due to space. Send in the form with your check by US mail. You may mail the form even if you do not mail your payment and plan to pay when you arrive.

You can also EMAIL us your intent to attend with names to PineMtTrailAssoc._Jim@msn.com (there is an underscore between

the period and Jim IE: **_Jim**) Having reservations helps us determine how much food we will need. We don't want to run short. Late reservations, additions or changes to your mailed reservations can be called in to Jim Hall. Jerry Brown will check the PMTA post office for the last time on Thursday October 24th...., so help us by having your reservations mailed to arrive before then.

Never been to a Pig Out? Do not know where it will be? Call Jim Hall at 706-569-0497 or other PMTA board members to learn about the fun 140-150 hikers can have and to get directions if the trail map is not clear to you.

IMPORTANT.....unless you have an annual GA Park Pass please

print off this page and put it on your dash when you arrive for the afternoon hike or the Pig Out dinner!

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".

2013 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 _____

Pine Mountain Trail Association founder D. Neal Wickham got Carl Carlson working on the PMT when he came to hike it in the early 1990's. Neal for years had led the workdays as he built the trails starting in 1975. But starting in about 1994 if you've been on a group led hike or a group led PMTA workday, you have met Carl. He leads most all the monthly workdays, and is there for most every hike. He also does the calendar schedule, planning the dates of these events. Who goes out and scouts where to have a workday? Carl. Who most of the time checks a route before a hike (often with the upcoming hike leader)? Carl. If I call Carl's home during the week often he is out on the trail doing something at least one day. This is what he has done for the last 19 years at least. The year of 2006, Carl spent many a day working with crews building the White Candle Trail. We honored his work by naming a beautiful overlook on that trail after his dog, Odie. ODIE OVERLOOK is on the trail map.

I met Carl when Neal teamed me up with him to cut blow-downs after Hurricane Opal in September of 1995. Looking at Carl, I began to wonder as we worked what this quiet gentleman did before he retired as then he was only 59 and I was 45. As we sat and rested I finally asked what he'd done work wise. "Worked for Delta" he said. That led me to ask specifically did he do with Delta. "Flew." I got a little more out of him, but not much.

That is Carl. As I said, he is a quiet man who is so hard working and as most everyone knows, the PMTA continues on today in a large part because of him. His outstanding contributions of time and energy are way into an unknown number of hours so far. I have never met someone who met Carl that didn't like him. I have never heard him get mad, raise his voice or anything but the fine Christian man he is. He got upset a few times (with the burns) and overwhelmed (such as wondering what we were going to do after the tornado), but he inspired me and others to step up and "just make it happen" and as Larry the Cable Guy says"Get er' done."

So here is a big thanks to you Carl for all you are doing and have done so far on the Pine Mountain Trail. Thanks for inspiring me and others to do volunteer trail work. Thanks for being a friend. Thanks for loving The Pine Mountain Trail enough to give of yourself, the way you have.

Many have asked about Carl specifically, so here is a little about him. Carl is from the Boston area and was born July 30, 1936. After graduation from Northeastern University in Boston in 1959, he joined the US Army. His first year was in the Corps of Engineers. Then he got picked to train as a pilot (both fixed wing and rotary/helicopters.) Soon he was a check pilot for fixed wing students at Ft. Rucker, Alabama. From there he pulled a tour of duty in Viet Nam starting in 1962. This was three years before the

built up there. Carl flew an Army Dehavilland Otter, a 10 place prop plane that was capable of short take off and landings. Back to Ft. Benning in 1963 he was flying medivac Huey helicopters for the medical service corps. He flew for several months about that time in the Dominican Republic (medivac flights.) Out of the Army in 1967 Carl was hired by Delta Airlines as a flight engineer first (on DC-6's and DC-7's which were the last 4 engine prop planes Delta had.) Then it was on to co-pilot on 6-7 different jet aircraft including the big L-1011. He was promoted to captain and flew DC-9's till his retirement in 1993.

Carl and his wife Joyce (married 48 years) built their home in Pine Mountain Valley. They are active members of the Church of Christ there. Carl not only serves on the Pine Mountain Trail Association board of directors but on the Water Board of Pine Mountain Valley.

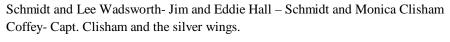
So if you ever see Carl wear that iconic leather flight jacket, you, like me, will now understand he deserves to wear it. Oh, has he flown anything since retirement from Delta in 1993? No, and hasn't sought to he said.

By the way, <u>Carl needs more folks to join him on monthly workdays</u>. Some folks call him and ask what they can do alone during the week. So if you can't come on a scheduled workday and want to do something on the trail, give him a call (706-626-5336) and I'm sure he can direct you to something that needs doing or checking on.



The plane crash memorial ceremony held November 10, 2011 was about the the most important thing I have been involved with on the Pine Mountain Trail. The fact that a plane crashed near Dowdell Knob and we didn't know the details or the exact date was always a mystery to me and my brother Eddie Hall. As I wrote in the details of the event posted on our PMTA website, if not for Eddie the story would not have unfolded the way it did. Eddie set in motion by finding out the details a whole set of plans that came together in just three months. Richard K. Schmidt surviving the crash is something else. The PMTA and FDR State Park were glad to have paid tribute to him for surviving and honoring him for his service. We are glad his family was able to join him that weekend. Monica Clisham Coffey was a toddler when her dad the pilot of the plane was killed. She had only a few newspaper clippings but never knew the exact location. Having her and her family (including a brother and sister of the pilot) to join her with us paying tribute and memory to her dad and the other men who died there was more than just an honor for us. There are way to many details of the crash to write here about, but I want to say a few. Many have asked and wondered why the plane was so low when it crashed. The plane was flying low on purpose that night. Weather conditions contributed to the crash, but Capt. Clisham was flying low to collect nuclear fallout air samples. The official USAF crash report I finally got, had for years been classified TOP SECRET. That is why we could not find out it for so long (till it was declassified.)

The most memorable moments of that whole weekend included taking the two families on Friday November 9th down to the crash site and relate to them, this is where it happened. This provided closure to the Clisham family, and the Schmidts. For the first time after 59 years these two families met, embraced and shared the story of the crash. The second most important thing that I was moved by was having four of the men who came to the crash site and gave aid to the survivors that night in 1953 at the ceremony. I can't imagine how it must have felt for Richard Schmidt and Lee Wadsworth shake hands again. It was Lee who sat with Richard and they watched as Benny Shepard died. Lee reintroduced the other three men who came to the ceremony. It meant a lot to me and both of the families for all those who helped with the ceremony make it happen and the large number who attended that day provide a lasting tribute about the crash. Finally, when I received a nice thank you from Monica and her family she sent me a set of her fathers silver flight wings as shown in the photo below. These I will cherish always. Photos below: Clisham and Schmidt families-Richard K.













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: Jim Hall & Mark Hughes FDR Park Office OVERNIGHT backpacking trip to Jenkins Springs Campsite Oct. 19 1 p.m. Please call (706-569-0497) or email Jim (via PMTA website) for reservations 5 moderate miles Oct. 26 Sat 1:30 p.m Chris Largent-Outside World WJSP TV Tower PL East End Loop (pre-Pig Out hike) 4 easy miles Oct. 26 Sat 5:30 p.m. **PIG OUT** dinner starts.....please arrive around **5 pm at latest** to pay/sign in (location-see article in newsletter) Pig Out Dinner will be at the stone shelter at the end of the parking lot at the Liberty Bell Pool area on GA 354 at FDR Nov 16 Sat 7:30 p.m. _____ RV Campground Trading Post Mountain Creek Loop (night hike) 3.2 easy miles FDR State Park office PL PMT & Pool Trail to Liberty Bell pool 3.4 mod miles Dec. 21 Sat 10 a.m. Jan. 1 Wed 1 p.m. ___ Country Store PL Overlook Loop on this "FIRST DAY" hike 3.4 mod miles Jan. 20 Mon. 1 p.m. Rocky Point PL PMT to Dowdell Knob 3.5 mod miles WORKDAYS* (Bring work gloves, water and your lunch. We furnish all tools and fun.)

Date	Time	Meet Carl Carlson at:
Oct. 12 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Nov. 2 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Dec. 7 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
2014		
Ian 11 Sat	10 a m	FDR State Park Office 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