

2014

December 18, 2014

Year End Work Parties?

Thanks to all who turned out today in the rain. We are finally nearing completion of an unexpectedly labour intensive route.

Unfortunately the next 2 Wednesdays fall on Xmas and New Year's Eves.

I'm suggesting we reschedule the work parties to different days, choosing our weather in the process. It would be nice to wrap up the current trail before the end of the year but that's just an arbitrary date. The important question is how many of you are interested in working during the holidays?

I know some of you will be away and some will have house guests/family. On the other hand,

some of you may wish to counter balance the surfeit of food with a little exercise.

Please reply only if you are interested.

Best of the Season.

Michael

December 17, 2014

Back Into The Fray

9 am tomorrow at #69 on Inlet Rd.

We will be continuing work on the new route up the hill.

Michael

December 9, 2014

It's a Warm Rain...

9 am tomorrow at #69 on Inlet Rd.

We'll be continuing work on the rerouting of the main trail up the hill.

For those who turn out, we can take a rain vote if the weather is really bad.

Michael

December 2, 2014

'Baby, It's Cold Outside'

I'm assuming the ground is frozen and ice is on the rocks where the stream flows. Hunker down by the woodstove instead?
Michael

November 26, 2014
12 Step Program for Trailbuilders

We'll be continuing up the rocky gully. Ken's bringing a second pinch bar and his patented rock stretcher. Forecast is for showers, not rain, in case you were wondering.
Michael

November 18, 2014
Higher Ground

9 am tomorrow on Inlet Rd by #69
Continuing work on the new route up the hill for the main trail. Usual tools plus gumboots and a bailer if you'll be in Ken's pit.
Michael

November 11, 2014
Bundle Up!

9 am tomorrow on Inlet Rd by #69
We'll be continuing work on the rerouting of the Light Blue Trail. The usual tools plus Ken's pinch bar and rock stretcher.
Michael

November 5, 2014
[sort of] New Trail

9 am at map post #69 on Inlet Road
We'll be rerouting the main trail [Light Blue] around to the left for a more gentle ascent. Many of you were there a while back when we sussed out an alternate route around the base of the ridge and up a gully. The usual tools.
Michael

October 29, 2014
Tidy Up

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot.

We'll finish the last of the new route up to the Lonely Giant and cover our [read: Ken's] tracks. I'll be chain sawing a couple of downed trees first and will need a volunteer to go with me.
Michael

October 21, 2014

Move On Up

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll be continuing the revamped trail up the hill from #5 to the Lonely Giant. The usual tools plus Ken's rock stretcher and buckets. I'll bring two.
Michael

October 15, 2014

A New Twist

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll start in on the revised [and flagged] route up the hill from #5 to the Lonely Giant. The usual trail building tools. Lou and Damien will be relaxing in Vancouver so it's down to the hardcore.
Michael

October 10, 2014

Thursday NOT Wednesday

We'll meet Thursday @ 9AM at the parking lot. We'll be clearing the overgrown trail between #36 and #38 as well as relocating that intersection post and installing the permanent map. If we have any left over time, we'll start in on rerouting/improving the Green Trail between #5 and #10 as per Lou's suggestion.
Michael

September 29, 2014

It's all downhill

9 am tomorrow at the chained entrance to the logging road near #57. We'll finish work on the last portion of the upper section of the Teal Trail

I'll bring the chainsaw for the tree down near #31

Just a reminder about the Trailbuilder's Dinner at 6 pm, Thursday, at Tom and Karen's house, 5847 Skookumchuk.
Michael

September 23, 2014

Neither Rain Nor....

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll continue upgrading the Teal Trail between #31 and #57. The usual tools.

We can always bail if the rain is too much.

Michael

September 9, 2014

Loose ends, new beginnings

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll finish buffing up the last little bit of the Purple Trail near the Kiosk and then start in on the Teal Trail, starting at #31 and heading downhill. Mostly chopping roots, filling divots and removing any stubborn rocks.

Michael

September 3, 2014

Friday instead of tomorrow

Because I have to go to Vancouver tomorrow I'm moving the work party to Friday, 9 am, at the parking lot.

We'll be finishing the Purple Trail and then move on to the Teal Trail between #31 and #57.

My apologies to any of you who can't make it.

Michael

August 27, 2014

Back to Basics

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot We'll be upgrading the Purple Trail between #4 and #1 with our stockpile of crusher dust at #4. Minor rerouting of some sections.

The usual tools. I'll bring 2 wheelbarrows and some buckets.

Michael

August 20, 2014

Grand Entrance

9 am tomorrow at #56 and #69 on Inlet Road.

We'll be widening the trail entrances by cutting back some of the vegetation, increasing the width of the trail at #69 and possibly adding on to the culvert for a wider crossing.

We'll also be looking at rerouting the same trail for a more gentle way up to the high ground.

Michael

August 13, 2014

Plan of Attack

9 am tomorrow at the chain on the logging road [#57]

We'll be clearing the brush [salal and blackberries, etc.] on the power line from the logging road down to #53 then West to the edge of the woods on the Blue Trail.

I'll bring the cordless hedge trimmer but could use a gas powered string trimmer, as well, if anyone has one.

Bring gloves, secateurs, machetes etc.

If we have time left after that task we'll go to #56 & #69 trail entrances on Inlet Road to make them more prominent by clearing brush and widening the beginning of the trails.

Michael

August 5, 2014

Final push to the top

9 am tomorrow at the Forest Rd. entrance to the SHF. [by Lou's house]

We'll be finishing work on the rerouted trail up to the granite bench.

Keep your eyes peeled for appropriate stones for Lou's steps along the way.

Michael

July 30, 2014

Closer to Home

9 am tomorrow at the Forest Rd entrance to the HG [near Damien's]

We'll be improving the trail up to the granite memorial bench near #75

The usual tools plus water in case it's really hot.

Michael

July 23, 2014

Braving the Weather

9 am tomorrow at the HG parking lot

Forecast is for rain but they've been wrong before. We can take a rain vote in the parking lot if it's pouring.

If it's a go, we'll be rerouting a small section of the Red Trail between #7 and #24 where a large Maple is leaning over the path but is not dead. If there's time left over we can raise portions of the trail nearby that get muddy in the winter.

Michael

July 16, 2014

Now for something completely different ...

9 am tomorrow at the HG parking lot

We will separate into 3 teams of 2 depending on the turnout.

Your mission is to take down the old plastic intersection signs in the entire HG and SHF, East of Inlet Rd.

You will need one cordless screw driver per team equipped with phillips and robertson bits. Hand drivers of both kinds are also recommended as back up. Also needed are toenail clippers or small side cutters to cut the top 2 zip ties on each map.

I will be installing the new maps [and rebar/caps at the new intersections] and can use any left over Trailbuilders. The push is to switch over the maps as quickly as possible to avoid confusing visitors since many of the intersections have new

numbers and some trail colours have changed.

Bring a bucket if you have one.

Michael

July 9, 2014

Finishing What We Started

9 am tomorrow at the Bob Rd entrance to the SHF.

We will finish nailing down the rest of the cedar treads and then fill in the approaches to both bridges with rocks and soil on top.

Hopefully Ken will bring his rock stretcher.

Michael

July 2, 2014

Bridging the Gap

9 am tomorrow at the Bob Rd entrance to the SHF.

We'll begin by hauling in the [6x] 10' 4x4's and [2x] 12' 4x6's plus a lot of 24" cedar 1x6 decking

Ken has been kind enough to cut from his own stock.

We'll be splitting some of the large cedar rounds in half to use as piers for the stringers.

I'll bring most of the necessary tools other than shovels. I'll also bring some heavier hammers but if you have a favourite, bring it as well. I also suggest a rudimentary tool belt to hold the nails.

Michael

June 25, 2014

A New Approach

9 am tomorrow at the Bob Rd entrance to the SHF

We will return to the job of rerouting the Root Loop through the boggy bit as laid out by Mike Lane.

We are starting at Bob Rd to avoid the stairs and also a mama bear and her cub I encountered this afternoon near intersection #75.

Michael

June 18, 2014

Emergency Trail Repair

9 am tomorrow at the Inlet Road location indicated on the attached map. See also the problem area between #20 and #21.

There are drainage issues upslope from the trail creating a mushy mess for a ~15' section. The plan is to intercept the runoff above the trail with a cross ditch and divert it into a culvert supplied by Ken. We'll be removing the organics and replacing it with more solid fill. For those worried about having to stand around supported by a shovel, we will be installing map posts at #20 and #21.
Michael

June 10, 2014

What's Old is New Again

9 am tomorrow at the Forest Rd entrance to the SHF.

We will be continuing work on the Root Loop including rerouting the uphill section to the West.

Michael

June 4, 2014

Change of Venue

9 am at the parking lot.

We have been alerted to loose steps on the Yellow Trail leading up to Pine Bluff.

These are steps that were put up 13 years ago and are not up to our current standards of workmanship. I would like to continue work on the Root Loop but this matter is more urgent. Perhaps Ken can bring his rock stretcher.

Michael

May 28, 2014

Bravo and venue change

Had a look at your handiwork on the completion final trail - great job, including the steps and thanks for filling in the borrow pits.

From here on out it will be mainly rehabbing existing trails and installing the sign posts and

signs [once I finish the maps] at your recently created intersections.

We meet tomorrow morning, 9am, at the end of Forest Road [Damien, Lou, Ken and John's 'hood] to work on the wet and rooty section of the Orange Trail [Root Loop] between #72 and #73.

The usual tools.

Michael

May 5, 2014

Soldier On

9 am Wed at the parking lot. Continue the good work on our final trail.

I won't be there for the next two sessions since I'm driving to Quebec City and back.

I've entrusted Ken with the sacred red knapsack as well as cookies and 2 sets of loppers.

If you're lucky he might even make coffee for you.

I'll be checking my emails if you have any questions.

Michael

April 29, 2014

May the Pits Be With You

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot We'll be continuing work on the current trail.

I am looking for temporary storage [up to a year?] for an unassembled HG bench still in it's box, roughly 6" x 36" x 60". It's been in Bob's carport for the past year and needs a new home now that his house is back on the market. If any of you have space for it let me know ASAP and I'll deliver. Thanks.

Michael

April 23, 2014

Bassackwards

9am at the parking lot tomorrow.

We'll be starting from the other end of the final trail to cut travel time. Your tools and buckets have been moved to #37. [see attached map]

Michael

April 15, 2014

Fall Back

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll continue work on the current trail.

For all the keeners leading the charge, we need to halt any forward progress until we bring the currently laid out trail up to our standards especially as it begins to head up the hill.

Unfortunately native soil is scarce up above so we'll carrying buckets up from the last good pit below.

Michael

April 9, 2014

On High

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll continue work on the final trail. We'll be leap frogging past the current steep bit in hopes of finding a pit for Ken where it levels out somewhat up above.

That means buckets, not wheelbarrow, so I'll bring a couple more.

FYI: I just added up the trail lengths in both the SHF and HG for the Trail Society and the totals are 4.5 km for the SHF and 11 km for the HG. Your steady work really adds up!

Michael

April 2, 2014

Amnesty

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll be continuing work on the latest [and final] trail.

I am extending unconditional amnesty to any Trailbuilders who may have been waiting for warmer and drier weather.

Welcome back to the fold!

Michael

March 25, 2014

Once again with feeling

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot We'll continue work on the current [and final] trail

Michael

March 18, 2014

The Final Frontier – delayed

Work party will be on THURSDAY MORNING, not tomorrow, due to the expected rain.

9 am at the parking lot. Mike Lane and I have sussed out the final trail which is ready for your magic touch. The usual tools.

My apologies to any of you who can't make it on Thursday.

Michael

March 12, 2014

Tidy Up, Grab Firewood

9 am at the parking lot.

We'll start by cutting up the small alders lying by the edge of the parking lot for those who want it for firewood.

We'll then head to the finish of our most recent trail to do some touching up and filling of borrow pits.

Michael

March 4, 2014

Wet 'n Wild

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot

We'll be cutting through all the downed trees indicated by blue X's on the attached map.

Ken and I will each have a chainsaw plus an extra in the wheelbarrow along with extra gas and the coffee break knapsack.

No need to bring any tools except raingear and gloves.

You will have plenty of time to toss branches aside while waiting for the saws to do their job. I encourage you to throw the branches well off the trail, hidden behind logs, etc. where possible. If you can fill a nearby borrow pit, even better. The aim is both aesthetic as well as fire prevention. The MOF guidelines mandate that combustibles such as branches full of needles be thrown a minimum of 5 metres away from trails.

A big shout out to Mike Lane for hiking all the HG and SHF trails to suss out the downed trees as well as clear what he could with a handsaw.

Michael

February 25, 2014

Snow Day

No work party tomorrow - slush is the absolute worst working condition.

I walked a lot of the trails yesterday afternoon and there are a lot of snow laden branches and small trees across the trails as well as fodder for the chain saw. How many spring back out of the way remains to be seen but consider bringing clippers and a folding pruning saw if you venture into the HG/SHF.

I have a list of trees that need a chainsaw but welcome any additions you care to add.

Michael

February 19, 2014

Follow Your Bliss

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. Continue work on the latest trail - focus will be on steps.

I'll take the high road with the wheelbarrow.

Michael

February 12, 2014

Once More With Feeling

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll be continuing work on the current trail.

Someone has suggested we bring rocks up from the Red Trail for the steps if we can't find enough above.

I'll bring the wheelbarrow in from above but some of you may wish to take the lower, more direct route. Perhaps Ken can bring his rock stretcher.

Michael

February 4, 2014

Work Freeze

No work party tomorrow. Ground is too frozen for good step building.

My apologies to all of you who were looking forward to working in sub zero temperatures.

Michael

January 29, 2014

Taking the Plunge

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll be continuing work on the new trail. Rain is supposed to end sometime in the morning.

Michael

January 22, 2014

Full Speed Ahead

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. Have a look at the entry pot holes if you're early.

We'll be continuing work on current trail.

Michael

January 15, 2014

Stout Hearted Men

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. If you get there early, or the rare chance that I'm late, please shovel some crusher dust in the deepening pot holes at the end of blacktop apron. We'll try to do this every Wed.

Otherwise it's back to the current trail.

Michael

January 7, 2013

giv'r

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll pick up where we left off on the new trail by the upper wetlands.

Don't feel compelled to show up if it's pouring although you will miss the hot cider and cookies.

Michael

December 23, 2013

Take a Break

No work parties on Christmas or New Year's days. Begin again Jan 8th.

Best holiday wishes to all.

Rest well for what lies ahead.
Michael