



A proud member of the Albert
County Tourism Association

July 2009 EDITION

Trivia Question #2

Who designed our club logo? And
when was this decision made?

ACTB Executive 2009

- President – Tammi Steeves
- Vice President – Herman Berry
- 2nd Vice President – Carl Nelson
- Treasurer – Debbie Smith
- Secretary – Emilie Broad

ACTB BOD 2009

- Danny Cameron
- Blair Colpitts – Past President
- Dennis Colwell
- Gail Dryden
- Dave Lutes
- Mike MacLean
- Brenda McCoubrey
- Terry McCoubrey
- Roy Mosher
- Allen Pearl
- Paulette Pearl
- Royden Simpson
- Travis Smith
- Dale Steeves
- Don Steeves
- Stephen Steeves
- Susan Steeves
- Boyd Wilkins
- Brent Wilson
- Donna Wilson

NBATVF 2009 Delegates

- John Field
- Rob Jonah

Web Master

- Mike Pond

Hot Line

- Janey Smith

Talk Mail

- Tammi Steeves

Newsletter

- Jim Foster

NBATVF Vice President

- Herman Berry

ALBERT COUNTY TRAIL BLAZERS INC.

2449 Route 114, Weldon, N.B. E4H 4R5

Club Message

Excitement is in the air now as the club has surpassed the 400 member mark. In June our memberships topped the 400 count. Just think how exciting this is. The PR committee is going to try and touch base with some of the early members and get their reaction to this!! To obtain this level of membership the hard work which has gone into this club since the beginning needs to be recognized. Each and every past executive and board of directors member put many hours of hard work into directing the movement of the club. Kudos to them. And kudos to all club members over the years as you also have put your time and energy into making this club what it is today!

Membership

Change is what helps with growth. There have been a few changes which have occurred recently and we are looking to add a couple more. This newsletter is one of our links with you, the member, and we consider it an important link. In this new age of technology it is possible to receive your newsletter via email. In this newsletter there is a questionnaire. Please check the box to let us know if you are interested in receiving the newsletter via email or email us at Tammi@albertcountytrailblazers.com and we will make sure all future newsletters are sent to you this way.

Dirt bike memberships are available with the Albert County Trail Blazers at the same rates as ATV's.

Meet Tucker



In an endeavor to get to know our membership we are going to do a story on one member in each newsletter. This month we are going to introduce you to Tucker!! The information for this story was supplied by Royden Simpson. Royden knows Tucker very, very well. Probably better than just about anyone in the club. He has worked with Tucker one-on-one many, many times. Our own editor, Jim Foster, has taken Royden's words and written this story so you too can "meet Tucker".

Many ACTB members, especially our newcomers, hear us old-timers talking about TUCKER and wonder who he is and why he is so important.

Tucker isn't a he, it's an it! It's our 1978 Sno Cat Tucker Model 1342, made in Portland Oregon, the machine that grooms our fabulous winter trail system with the help of its volunteer pilots.

This thing weighs about three tons and is an impressive 22 feet long. When we first got our Tucker, the hour meter read 4,297.1 hours, but it hadn't worked for years so we installed a new engine this year and after this past winter the meter now shows 188.3 hours -- that's a lot of grooming for you, our members, in just one winter!

This machine is 30 years old and takes a lot of tender lovin' care. When grooming, it runs at 3/4 throttle all the time and works very hard, especially with multiple drivers which is harder on the machine as each has their own style of operating the machine.

Committees & Chairpersons

Attendance

- Terry McCoubrey

Christmas Dinner & Dance

- Allen Pearl

Events Calendar

- Rob Jonah

Federation News

- John Field

Federation Ticket Sales

- Valerie Douthright

Hotline

- Janey Smith

Elections

- Allen Pearl

Land Development

- Debbie Smith

Mailings

- Tammi Steeves

Memberships

- Debbie Smith

Merchandise

- Debbie Smith

Parades

- Don Steeves

Prizes

- Dale Steeves

Public Relations

- Mike Pond

Trail Cleanup

- Danny Cameron

Voice Mail

- Tammi Steeves

Trails

- Blair Colpitts

Winter Grooming

- Travis Smith

50/50 Draw

- Gail Dryden

Proud Sponsors of:

Albert County Exhibition – Light Horse Show

Children's Wish Foundation

Cystic Fibrosis

Juvenile Diabetes

Ronald McDonald House Atlantic

Riverside -Albert Health & Wellness

Riverview Fire Dept.

Hillsborough Fire Dept.

Riverside Albert Fire Dept.

Shepody Food Bank

Canadian Cancer Society, Relay For Life

It takes about 300 man hours per year just in maintenance to keep her going and this does not even include grooming time. Maintenance takes special tools, cutting torches, an electric welder, jacks and jack stands, not to mention gases to run the welders. Royden Simpson just filled up his acetylene and oxygen bottles, for example, at a cost of \$109. The gas for the electric welder costs about \$115 alone!

The tucker also requires someone with a very big truck to go pick it up with an equally huge trailer when it breaks. A half-ton isn't nearly big enough as it takes a lot of power to haul it, and sometimes the large, heavy drag is on it, too.

The Tucker should be maintained in a heated garage which allows for the ice and snow to melt off, which allows the maintenance guys to see other things on the machine that might be broken, and to give it a good greasing, too.

Now you know who Tucker is!

Grooming



During the June meeting the board of directors learned that the winter vs summer membership ratio was at 50/50. That is a very interesting thing. Travis, who was in charge of memberships for many years up until this year, reported that the ratio always used to be one which showed less winter memberships in the count. Now that there are more ATVs out there in the winter time grooming is more and more important.

It is important that we as members understand what goes on in our grooming season. Our groomer, as you have learned, is an older model Tucker, one which has been treated and coaxed along over the years. Each year the expenses of maintaining it become more and more, and the man hours required are more and more. We have been lucky over the past several years and have had Royden Simpson as the head of maintenance. He has put in countless hours year after year maintaining it. This year Royden is taking a much deserved rest. He will still be working on the machine as his schedule allows but will be handing over the reigns as head of maintenance to someone else.

What we all do not realize is that with Royden as head of maintenance we have always enjoyed the luxury of his garage, and his tools at our disposal. This year we are attempting to get a building - "tucker shed" - on our property in Dawson to both house and maintain the tucker. There are fundraising efforts underway every day put on by the hard working Land Committee to this end. One which I might add for interest's sake, Royden is a member of.

The entire grooming committee is manned by volunteers. Travis who is the dispatcher has been doing this for many years. He is extremely good at it and knows what needs to be done, and when it needs doing. Working with the groomer operators he makes sure we have groomed trails whenever possible. He knows what type of snow can adequately be groomed, what temperatures the best grooming is done under. He also is always aware of any safety issues out there. He will not send out the groomer if everything necessary for a safe groom is not in place. Travis does not just guess at this, he knows because he has been involved in grooming for many, many years. He has also put countless hours into grooming himself, so we need to trust his judgment in this matter.

I have had the opportunity to listen as members and non-members each vent their frustrations at grooming not having been done at a certain time or that the snowmobile club has groomed and we have not. Let us all understand that conditions on the mountain are not always mirrored in areas where our trails are. Not only that, there are not always volunteers available to man the tucker, or there may be a maintenance or safety issue we are not aware of. Rest assured if it is possible to groom, the trails are groomed and when it is not they are not. Please be patient this coming winter and give the grooming/maintenance crews a big pat on the back next time you see one of them. It is their countless VOLUNTEER hours which give us the ability to ride the trails in the winter time. Trust your grooming committee.

MERCHANDISE

Please see Debbie Smith at our meetings & events or email Debbie@albertcountytrailblazers.com to purchase your club merchandise.



T-shirts are \$12.00 each



Pins are \$3.00 each



Hats are \$10.00 each

One more thing remember that the winter season costs are fueled by winter memberships. Please pick yours up as soon as you can once they become available. That allows us the ability to plan the season as early as possible. Thank you all.

It's another Albert County mystery!



If anyone has any information concerning the above damage or any other ATV-related damage please contact the RCMP, TIPS hotline or Tammi Steeves. This vandalism is a problem in and around the village area, one the ACTB would like to see stopped. We are working in conjunction with the RCMP and the village of Hillsborough to catch the perpetrators.

PR Committee

Your PR committee has been hard at work. They have issued invitations to our neighboring clubs to our events, kept the website and hotline up to date, had multiple newspaper articles published, and even had our cleanup day on the radio for two weeks prior to the event. Working with the land committee a very successful member appreciation fun day took place, and we are now working toward holding our October general meeting in the Riverview/Moncton area. Come on down and participate in this committee, it is fun and interesting.

If you are interested in having something on any of our information sources contact the PR

Sponsors (2009-2010))

Aarons Appliances
Advanced Motor Sports
All State – Karen Steeves
All Ways Doors
Anonymous Donors – nine
Ben's Bread
Blair Colpitts
Boyd Wilkins
Brunswick Fry & Safety
Canada Post – Dieppe
Carl Nelson
Cheryl & Royden Simpson
Cook's Quick Mart
Cross Country Services
Dave Lutes
Donnie Steeves
Downey's Home Hardware - Riverview
Fairview Fittings
Frank L Steeves, Ltd
Fundy Outfitters
G Bourque
G H Factory
Gary Steeves Insurance
Greg Beaumont
Hercules
Hillsborough Irving Mainway
Hillsborough Service Centre
Hub City Auto Paints
Jim Coates
Louise Richard
Milligan Cycle Works
On Target Courier & Cargo
Patty's Place
Pepsi/Hostess
Rob Jonah
Robert Smith
Rocks View Variety
Same Day Courier
Sapranos Pizza - Alma
Seaside Chev Olds
Sno-Mo Repairs, Ltd
Sobeys
Stephen & Tammi Steeves
Susan & Dale Steeves
Tad Copp
Travis Smith
Trio Pizza
Universal – Rod Steeves
Universal Truck & Trailer
Valerie Douthwright
Wal-Mart, Trinity
Wallace Equipment
Woodworths General Store
Zellers, Mt. Rd.

committee. Access to them is easy you can click on the link on the website which is: PR@AlbertCountyTrailBlazers.com or call Joanne at 734-2308. Keep in mind if you are chairing a meeting or event and you would like the information out there you must contact them.

Land Committee



The club's Land Committee has their hands full, developing our new property into something club members can be proud of. The committee has been working with government on funding. As well, they are checking on the size of building we will need to host events of 200 or more guests. Mel Edgett was the winner of the Harley-Davidson rocker which was raffled off to raise funds for the new building that we hope to soon build on the property at 667 Dawson Rd. Their latest fundraiser is for a new generator with a draw date of Dec. 5, with tickets available from Land Committee members or at Frank L. Steeves Ltd. But there's tons of work going on in the meantime. The new parking lot has been cleared, dozed and leveled thanks to Mike MacLean and Terry McCoubrey. The site for the tucker shed and clubhouse has also been dozed. The culvert is in place and just waiting to be covered so it can be used. The signs have been put up, too. The Land Fund has received donations from Greg Beaumont-\$32.50, Jim Coates-\$50, Robert Smith-\$100, Carl Nelson-\$75, Mike MacLean-\$50 and Travis Smith-\$50. Of these donations we have purchased grass seed for the parking lot in the amount of \$225. The committee is still looking for donations of building materials for the tucker shed. A big THANKS to everyone who has already donated. Contact a member of the Land Committee if you'd care to donate cash, materials or manpower.

Mac's Run



Warm temperatures and just a hint of rain made for a great day on the trails on May 2 when about 100 bikes turned out for the Albert County Trail Blazers' annual Fundy Outfitters poker run.

As always on the Fundy Outfitters' run, the food was outstanding, the company was fabulous and the prizes were generous.

Rodney Bannister walked away with first prize of \$125. Second-prize winner Jonathan Russell pocketed \$100 and third prize went to Justin Wells.

In total, 104 poker hands were sold for another successful ACTB outing.

Poker runs are not just a good time, but are an important source of funding for our club. That's just one of the reasons why a great big thanks goes out to those who took part in a great day touring the scenic hills of Albert County.

Materials Needed for Building

2x6x14 kiln dried lumber
2x6x12 kiln dried lumber
5 1/2 " foam sill gasket
1 3/4"x9 1/2" microllam
7/16" waferboard 4x8 OSB
Truss package
5/12p 16"OH
2x4x12 kiln dried lumber
15/32 ultra roof osb
1/2 roof clip
Drip edge 10' white 2 1/4
25 yr marathon dual black
15 asphalt felt
2x6x16 kiln dried lumber
2 1/4 common nails
2 3/8 common paslode
3 1/2 common nails
3 1/4 common paslode
Galv roof nail 1 1/4
Tyvar house wrap
Red sheathing tape
Prime # T50 A-11 3/8 galv
1x3x14 spruce lumber

Upcoming Events

- August 8, 2009 Pig Roast & Poker Run contact Deb 734-3054
- September 11, 2009 Obstacle Course contact Travis 734-2932
- October 3, 2009 Fall Foliage & Poker Run contact Herman 882-2222
- October 17, 2009 Cash Draw and Dance contact Debbie 734-3054
- December 5, 2009 Christmas Dinner & Dance contact Allen 372-5169

Ongoing Trail Committee Projects

-Ings Interval Bridge/Crossing
-Rail Line Lease Extension -Salisbury & Dawson-
-Trail side Fuel/Food Access
-Linking ACTB trails to NBATVF Clubs - Region 5 & Province wide
-Improved Trail Signage
-GPS Trail System for Maps
-Expanding the Winter Trail System
-Bridges & Buildings maintenance
-New Land Development -Transferred to LDC
-Trail Security - Enforcement

Annual Trail Clean-up Day



You can tell when the club is on to a good thing when triple the amount of people show up during the second time an event is held, compared to the first.

That was the case on May 23 at the second annual ACTB Spring Trail Clean Up, when more than 40 members and friends scoured the beautiful Albert County countryside, picking up litter, separating the trash for recycling and, afterwards, enjoying a great barbecue, cold pops and the company of great friends.

The event opened a lot of eyes. Many people remarked at how thoughtless some people can be, throwing all manner of garbage through the woods. But perhaps the best comments were at how there was actually comparatively little litter along ATV trails, with most of the trash collected where members of the general public have access, demonstrating that while ATVers aren't perfect, we are the solution, not the main problem, when it comes to pop cans, plastic bags and chip wrappers littering our precious wild areas.

Event co-ordinator Danny Cameron had everyone divided into groups which left early in the morning from different spots in the trail system, ensuring a thorough clean up. And did we ever clean up, gathering enough garbage to fill three dumpsters, generously provided by Nelson Waste Management. In fact, owner Aaron Nelson was so impressed with our work, he's promised to provide dumpsters for our clean ups every year. Thanks Aaron!

And 'work' it was, but it was also one of the most fun events, with everyone agreeing they couldn't believe that trail maintenance could be such a laugh riot.

Thanks to everyone who pitched in; hope to see you next year!

Audbur's Run



ATVers from as far away as Prince Edward Island were raving about the fun and adventures we all enjoyed on June 6 during the Audburs Annual Poker Run.

This years' run was our eighth annual and was held as usual at the Rocks View Variety in Hopewell Cape. This year's run was 90kms and included some of best trails and scenery that Albert County has to offer with rest areas and scenic sites posted along the route, some of which included the Kent Hills Windmill Farm, Lumsden Lookout, Crooked Creek covered bridge and the Caledonia Gorge.

This run as well as others that our club organize would not be possible without the help of many volunteers like Mike Pond, Greg Lewis, Joanne Jonah, Tammi &

Memberships for 2009 are available for purchase through:

- Downey's Home Hardware, Riverview – Contact Brent Wilson
- Frank L Steeves Ltd, Weldon – 734-2932
- Mike MacDougal – 386-1643
- Rob Jonah 734-2308
- Tom Lane 387-7697
- Carl Nelson 386-6219
- Blair Colpitts 734-2831
- Allen Pearl – 372-5169
- Gail Dryden – 882-1980
- Debbie Smith – 734-3054
- Bobbi Sweetland – 871-9803
- Download from our website under memberships
- Any GM meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month

Trivia Question # 2 Answer

Jeff Foster's logo submission was accepted. This was recorded in the BOD Minutes of Tuesday November 17, 2002!!



For the past three years the Albert County Trail Blazers has sponsored one class in a pointed show on the Greater Moncton Equestrian Club Circuit, at the Albert Early Spring Horse Show held in May. The money raised from this event goes towards improving facilities at the Albert County Exhibition Grounds. Left: Tammi Steeves, President, Albert County Trail Blazers, presenting the annual donation to right: Amy Colpitts of the ACE.

Stephen Steeves, Danny Cameron, Don Steeves, Debbie Smith, Darla Colwell and others such as event chair person Rob Jonah.

Special thanks to Audbur for the free coffee and donuts provided as well as gift certificates to add to our prizes. Sponsors for the event included Universal truck & Trailer, Hub City Auto Paints, On Target Courier & Cargo, Albert County Trail Blazers and of course Rocks View Variety.

Major prize winners for the run were:

- 1st Nathan Tower
- 2nd Jason Power
- 3rd Gillis Gautreau

Extreme Poker Run



The June 20 first ever Extreme Poker Run, organized by Dave MacDonald, proved to be something new and exciting for Trail Blazers and our guests. It all began after listening to the interest on the NBATV forum about a mud run or something different than a regular poker run, Dave says.

"Pretty much from the start I had Trail 31 or 'The Firepit Trail' as many of us know it for the extreme section. After going out a few times and checking my GPS I came up with a route or routes to offer three levels of skill or terrain. It was a bit controversial and had a few obstacles to overcome, but as time ticked down, thanks to the support of many from our prez down, the trails were cleared and marked," Dave says.

"The day started a bit overcast — truly a dust-free day — and I was worried that a good turnout might not be in the forecast with so many other events going on around the province. So after helping to set up I headed off to the extreme section to wait for the mud lovers. I was secretly hoping that not many would want to try the extreme section as I was a little shy on helpers. So when pretty much every bike stopped and were planning on givin' 'er a go I was glad I wore my chest waders! Once all had a chance to try the first hole and build confidence, about 20 or more bikes found the black bottomless floating bog," Dave laughs.

"One bike after another began to get stuck, hung up, and a traffic jam began as I jumped from one to another, helping them get out. At one point there were six or seven bikes all stuck and everyone was helping out, taking pics or planning their next moves. By the time we arrived at the bbq everyone was having a great time despite being soaking wet and drenched with mud. Finally it was time for a nice comfy drive back, until one of the last few mud holes was found, followed by another hour of playing and watching each other in the mud.

"After all was said and done I was very pleased from the comments I heard and I learned a few things to improve on next time. We never had a lot of bikes but the people that were there had a lot of fun and are looking forward to the next one. In my opinion for the 1st extreme run, it was a success."

Meetings



General membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month and the board of director meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Board meetings are open to all members for the first half of the meeting then they close off to do board business. Should you wish a spot on the agenda of either meeting please contact one of the executive or board members and you will be added.

2010 Membership Cost

3 season (**no winter access**) = \$25.00
4 season (**winter access**) = \$75.00
Associate = \$10.00 voting privileges included

*Includes NBATVF membership & \$2000.00 accidental death benefit.

At the NBATVF AGM held in April of this year the fee structure changed. All clubs in the province will be selling memberships at one rate. The new rates are listed above. The only change to our club will be the price of the 3 season pass. It is now \$25.00 per year.

Clubs which do not groom will be able to sell winter memberships however, the extra \$50.00 will be turned into the federation and they will distribute it evenly between the clubs within the zone in which the club is located. If there are no winter grooming clubs within their zone the federation will distribute it among the closest zone.

Winter passes for the 2009/2010 season will be available in the fall. Listen to the hotline for updates. Or pick yours up at the October GM meeting/membership drive.

Member Appreciation Fun Day



The day started off a bit iffy with it looking like rain, and we wondered if the few who were there early might be the only ones coming for the day. Not to worry, our members did not let us down and it only sprinkled a little. All in all it was a great day and turn out, with approximately 125 people coming and going throughout the day.

Kenny started up the BBQ as soon as he got there and got going on the burgers, hot dogs and moose sausage. He cooked until he had to leave at which time Tammi took over and cooked for the rest of the day, non-stop. Food was flying until almost 3 p.m., with everyone seeming to get their fill and many comments on the delicious moose sausage. The cake was huge and tasted as good as it looked.

Emilie entertained the children for the day and even some of the adults got into the act by getting tattoos, which were picked out by the children. There were a few wet people, not from rain, but from a few well aimed water balloons. All in all, the children had a fun day.

The draw for the \$50 for RSVPing was done at 1 p.m., with Robert Smith winning and donating it back to the land fund.

This RSVP thing was also a lot of fun as well. We never realized how many people had no idea what it meant. It was even discussed on the forum, which you should check out at <http://albertcountytrailblazers.com/forum>. It made for some interesting conversation at times!

There was a 50/50 draw as well, with Jim Coates taking the prize of \$116. He in turn also donated \$50 back to the land fund, making an extra \$100 for the work on the parking lot.

There were also tours of the new property done with Robert as narrator. People seemed excited to see what all had been done with the dozing for the parking lot and the spot for the clubhouse and tucker shed. This project is going to be a huge bonus for our valued members.

Prize Committee

Recently the prize committee was approached with an interesting question. One I am sure all of you are interested in hearing about. The question posed was: "Why are prizes given to poker runs which are for the benefit of only one committee?" For instance this particular question was concerning runs put on by the land committee with the proceeds going to the land committee. It is an interesting question, but one with an easy answer.

The land committee works furiously to clear land, seed it, fundraise for a tucker shed and has the ultimate goal of constructing a clubhouse for us. Yes, us. Ultimately, this is all for the club membership. It has always been a dream that someday the ACTB have a clubhouse of our own, and that is their final destination. The prizes collected by the prize committee are for the club. All our committees work for the club.

All poker runs are set up in such a way that the administration costs incurred by the club are reimbursed. Also, recently a new idea has been implemented, one which each run purchase at least two shirts and two hats from our stores as prizes. This ultimately is to our benefit.

Remember when a committee puts on a run and the proceeds are to that particular committee it is to benefit us all in one way or another.

Hotline: (506) 857-6601

www.albertcountytrailblazers.com

It was also proven that day, even though it was early you still had to watch out for moose on the run as Stephen Steeves literally ran into one while out for a short jaunt on his machine. And by that, I mean he ran into one. Both he and the moose came away none the worse for wear, happily.



All in all it was a great day with lots of participants. Here's hoping it will be even bigger and better next year.

And something interesting for last Cash Draw and Dance

Looking for something new, fun and maybe even profitable to do? The ACTB is hosting a Cash Draw and Dance fundraiser on Oct. 17 at the Alma Activity Center. The Cash Draw is from 7-9 p.m. and afterwards there will be dancing to the tunes of Eddie Chase & Graffiti 4.

Get your tickets soon, because there will be early bird draws for \$50 each on Aug. 12 and Sept. 23.

Tickets are on sale now for \$25 each from Frank L. Steeves Ltd., Downey's Home Hardware (Brent Wilson), Royden Simpson-734-2768, Kathy Bishop-887-1127 or Debbie Smith-734-3054. There are a limited number of tickets for sale so don't dawdle!

The cash draw features prizes for the last 10 names drawn, as follows: 1st- \$500, 2nd- \$250, 3rd- \$100, 4th-10th-\$50 each. There will be lots of other prizes as well, including a 50/50 and a loser's draw, so don't miss out!

This is guaranteed to be a fun and interesting evening so come out and enjoy.