

# *The Constellation*

The Newsletter For



The Five Star Trail Chapter and The Coal & Coke Trail Chapter

## OCTOBER 2006 - Vol 8 No. 1

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EDITOR'S CORNER by DUANE WOLLEY

The mailing labels have the expiration date of the addressee's membership in the FSTC or the CCTC for those who are members. *If your membership is past due, please use the application form for your chapter inserted near the end of the newsletter to rejoin in order to continue to receive the newsletter, other information and support the chapters day-to-day operations.*

**FULL MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETING  
AT THE DONOHOE CENTER BARN**

**November 8, 2006**

**Snacks, beverages & socializing at 6:30 pm**

**Dinner at 7:00 pm**

**This meeting is for all members and prospective members of the Five Star Trail Chapter. Members of any chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation will be welcome to attend. After the dinner there will be a presentation of the status of development trails in Westmoreland County. There will also be a brief review of the functions of the committees of the FSTC. We would particularly like to have any members of the Coal and Coke Trail Chapter and the Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter come as we will be reviewing the status of the trail development of their trails as well.**

**The dinner entree choices will be either stuffed pork chop or stuffed chicken which attendees will choose on the reservation form included in this newsletter. In addition to the entree included will be a baked potato, vegetables, salad, fruit cup, rolls & butter, desert and coffee, tea or punch. The cost will be \$11 for each life member and member whose membership expires May 2007 or later. Members whose Five Star Trail Chapter dues are not current and persons from other trail organizations will be \$15 per person. If you dues are not current you may send your membership renewal and dinner meeting reservation at the same time and pay only \$11 for each individual or family member for the dinner. Each member or addressee can make reservations for up to four (4) persons.**

**There is a reservation form on page 5 of this newsletter. Print carefully the names of each attendee, circle their entree choice and the cost (\$11 or \$15 - the price is the same for each person on each reservation), total the cost and send the form with a check for the total made payable to FSTC - RTC to the address on the form. **THE RESERVATION MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 30, 2007.****

**Coal & Coke Trail  
Construction & Planning Update - September 2006  
by  
Malcolm Sias**

**A variety of things are happening simultaneously on the Coal and Coke Trail as we move forward with our goal of having a usable trail sometime in the spring of 2007. We are going out to bid for a second time on a trail construction package, building the two missing bridges over Shupe and Sherrick Runs, and we have completed the final grading and**

shaping of the trail in preparation for further construction. The following is a detailed breakdown of each of these items:

**Bridges:** The 57 foot long bridge over Sherrick Run is complete with the exception of access ramps that have to be built on either side of the bridge. The construction of the ramps is underway by the County Road Department and should be completed in early October. The 43 foot long bridge over Shupe Run is totally complete.

The bridges have been built with a combination of County and volunteer labor. We used County labor to get the steel beams and framework installed and lay down the framing for the deck. Once this was completed we had volunteer work parties meet at least once a week from June through early September to build the wooden decks and handrails on the two bridges.

**Engineering and Preparation of Construction Plans:** Mackin Engineering received final approval from PENN DOT on the two road crossings and DCNR reviewed our plans and gave us the go ahead to proceed. We went out to bid the first time with a due date of September 8 but received no bids, even though seven contractors had purchased the plans and specifications to complete a bid. After talking to a number of these contractors it was evident that our time frame was too short and there is simply too much work currently ongoing that has to be finished this fall. Thus we have decided to put the project out to bid again with a due date at the end of October and a completion date at the end of May 2007. This will allow contractors to work on the project over the winter as weather allows and complete the asphalt in the spring.

We do not have enough funding to complete everything at this time so the work will include basically everything but the installation of the final crushed limestone trail surface. Included will be the two road crossings, construction of the trail in all areas that are not on the old railroad right-of-way, construction of the trail in Kendi Park, asphalt coverings on the ramp from Bessemer Street and the ramps at Sherrick Run bridge, and the installation of all the drainage items still needed along the trail. This is of course if bids come in as expected and we can afford all this work. If not we will adjust the scope to a level we can afford.

**Mowing the Trail and Knocking Back the Brush:** As we moved toward final grading of the trail we realized that the brush along the corridor had grown in significantly and was closing in the trail. Both Mount Pleasant and East Huntington Township crews stepped forward to clear the brush and mow back the right-of-way so that construction could proceed. We have asked the Townships to continue to mow the trail edges about once a month through October and then beginning again in April.

**Control of the Right-of-Way:** The Chapter has had new signs printed with the Coal and Coke Trail logo that have been posted all along the trail. We need to take control of the corridor and maintain control now in preparation for opening the trail to the public once construction is complete. The signs say: Notice - This property is owned by the Regional Trail Corporation and is Being Improved as the Coal and Coke Trail. Enter at Your Own Risk, No Dumping, No Motor Vehicles, No Discharging Firearms, Maximum Fine \$300. Hotline Call: 724-872-5586. (This is the phone at the RTC office.)

It's also time for us to begin to establish a Trail Monitors group that visits and patrols the trail on a regular basis. They are the eyes and ears for the trail. They are also the trail ambassadors and they talk to people on the corridor. Even though the trail will not be open to the public until construction is complete and we officially declare it OPEN, there will be people on the corridor for various reasons and we need to keep an eye on things.

**Other Volunteer Work:** Once the bridges are complete we will consider what other work needs done and continue some volunteer work parties to get it completed over the course of the fall and winter.

**Volunteer Support to Date:** I wanted to end by thanking and congratulating everyone that has been out to help in any way throughout the process. We've had plenty of help building the bridges and so many different people have been involved. I think we've now had about a dozen sessions between tree and brush clearing and bridge building and I think there must be at least 50 different people that have contributed. I would like to thank Michelle Doyon for all the time and effort she has invested in organizing the volunteer workers and getting the word out to people. This is a most important function and one that is not done very well in most trail groups.

We need to involve as many people as possible in these volunteer work parties because by participating we build ownership. Each of you is an owner of the Coal and Coke Trail. Owners take care of things and make sure they stay healthy and well maintained. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to come and join us. We can always use more help and now is the time to get them involved. The more people we have committed the easier it will be for each of us. THANKS AGAIN!!

Photos of some of the volunteers working on the Shupe Run bridge are shown on page 7.

### **In Memoriam David J. Fait**

David J. Fait, 64, of Youngwood, died Saturday, Aug. 12, 2006, at Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital, Greensburg. Born Dec. 31, 1941, in Washington, D.C. He was a graduate of Hempfield High School in 1960 and California University of Pennsylvania in 1963. He taught industrial arts at Gettysburg School District and Mt. Pleasant Area School District for 17 years.

He was an avid supporter of Rails-To-Trails and was president of the Five Star Trail Chapter (FSTC). He served on the board of the FSTC for several years, helped with maintenance of the trails and helped build sign boards and other structures along the trail.

He was a person who loved life and was very interested in people. He had a great sense of humor and many varied interests. He enjoyed nature, golfing, traveling, theater, art and collecting pottery. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and will be remembered for his easygoing personality and gentle spirit.

# FSTC MEMBERSHIP DINNER RESERVATION FORM

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL TO

FSTC - RTC

194 Donohoe Road

Greensburg, PA 15601

The form must be post marked by **OCTOBER 30, 2006** & contain your check.  
Make the check payable to **FSTC - RTC**.

Names of attendees	Entree Selection		Cost	
	C = Stuffed Chicken	P = Stuffed Pork Chop	\$11= Note A	\$15= Note B
	Circle Choice		Circle Cost	
1 _____	C	P	\$11	\$15
2 _____	C	P	\$11	\$15
3 _____	C	P	\$11	\$15
4 _____	C	P	\$11	\$15

## TOTAL COST

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note A** - Life members or members whose dues are current ( MAY 2007).

**LIFE MEMBERS** - Tom & Donna BAILEY, Lou BATTISTELLA, William BRUMMETT, Joanne CAFFERY, Janice DAVIS, Rob & Dawn DEPASQUALE, Keith DORKO, Karl EISAMAN, Bill & Sandra FINLEY, Rick FOGLE, Jeanne & Dan HAMRICK, Harry & Marjorie HAYDEN, Ken & Leota JONES, Jerry KALATA, Mary Ann KLINGENSMITH, William McATEE, Dorothea & John MOTTO, Keith NEILL, Pamela & Vaughn NEILL, JIMMY PAUL'S RESTAURANT, Jimmy PIETRUSZA, Barry B. PREMOSHIS, John C. RIDINGER, Doris & Richard RIFEENBAUGH, Jack & Ruth SCOTT, Daniel & Amy SHANNON, Ted STASIAK, James & Florence STITT, William S. THOMPSON, Jim & Jackie TIMKO, Valerie TIMKO, Louise VRABLE, Dale WISEMAN, Sue WISEMAN, Duane WOLLEY, Thomas M. ZANGLA and Chris ZUNDEL

**MEMBERS WHOSE DUES ARE CURRENT (MAY 2007)** - Nicole BOSSART, Dick CAMPBELL, James J. COLETTI, Jr., David & Debbie DELISI, Andrew FALKOSKY, Sr., Ray F. FERGUSON, Rose Mary GATES, Bryan & Carla GOETZ, Sherry Magretti HAMILTON, John KEMERER, Doug & Stephanie LARSON, Thomas & Rose LEVENDUSKY, Agnes MAIURO, Karen KOVAL & Matt MULVIHILL, Tom McGUIRE, Carl MICHAEL, Mary Catherine MOTCHAN, Kevin O'TOOLE, Randy PARKER, Jerry & Dianne PAVETTI, Raymond L. PAVLIK, Greg Leanne & Brandon PHILLIPS, James PILLSBURY, DeStanley PITTLER, Walter PRUTZ, Jr., David PUSKARICH, Dino ROMAGNOLI, Ernest SCHINDEHETTE, Louis SHUEY, Malcolm & Patti SIAS & Family, Louis P. SMITH, Donald SNYDER, George SOCHER, Keith & Marilyn SOLOMON, Rebecca TRAUTH, Nevin & Judy ULERY, Lois & John WEAVER and Sam & Melissa ZELI.

**Note B** - Members whose dues are not current, other trail members and addressees.

These persons may get the \$11 price for each of their group by renewing their dues or becoming a New Member by including the attached **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FIVE STAR TRAIL CHAPTER** and a separate check in the same envelope!!





**Photos of volunteers building the bridge over Shupe Run on  
The Coal & Coke Trail**

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