

CORA

SECOND EDITION
SEPTEMBER 1993



CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

From the President

by Lee Asbury

Now that the Royal Blue area is in State ownership, questions concerning permissible activities, use regulations and what kind of area it is going to be have generated considerable debate.

It seems that the first order of business should be one of establishing a philosophy for the use of the area.

The State has assigned the area to T.W.R.A. to manage. It is quite natural that the Wildlife Resources Agency, with

its original mandate and dependence on hunting and fishing license fees, would lean heavily toward traditional WMA setups with heavy emphasis on restricting uses, voluminous regulations and intense enforcement of technical rules. This approach, as a philosophy, is presently applied across the State. Many people succumb to it without protest. Many others, not willing to be regimented and wooled over by uniformed officers simply avoid WMAs.

Assigning the task of writing a management plan to the area manager, a strong believer in regulation and strict technical enforcement, and a game biologist almost insured a document with many areas where conflicts as to use and practices would arise.

Preserving the land, protecting its plants and animals and guaranteeing their survival for coming generations must always be the primary goal. Any uses which are unreasonably harmful should be regulated and if necessary eliminated.

Most T.W.R.A. operated areas were acquired by purchase or lease with hunter money and are understandably and justifiably operated primarily for hunter benefit with other uses being of an incidental nature and generally provided gratuitously.

Royal Blue was purchased with funds generated by a statewide tax on real estate transfers and it has always been clearly understood that it was to be a multiple use area. Past traditional uses of the property include, but are not limited to: hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, hiking, ginseng and other medicinal plant gathering, wildflower hunting, bird

watching, recreational vehicle riding and just "going to the mountains."

In the past, the only regulations have been statewide laws governing hunting, fishing, trapping and ginseng hunting. All other uses have been permitted property wide and year round. Wildlife populations, especially deer herds and turkey flocks have flourished in recent years and there is no credible evidence that the other traditional uses have militated against wildlife in any way. Recreational vehicle riders have exceeded reasonable limits by continually breaking new trails and denuding steep areas in some places and must be subjected to and accept some reasonable regulations of those bad practices. We are convinced that most responsible riders agree with this and are prepared to abide by and help enforce such reasonable regulations.

If it is to be one which qualifies as a "multiple use" area, Royal Blue must be approached differently than other WMAs. Access to and through the area must be permitted and new ideas must be implemented and tried. If this approach is used over a period of time and data accumulated, then reasonable regulations, discouraging bad practices, and permitting reasonable uses can be formulated. The public is justified in opposing any restrictions of access or use unless it can be demonstrated that they are harmful.

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How Can I Get Involved In C.O.R.A.?

by Mike McAfee

Anyone who loves the outdoors and has an interest in enhancing and preserving outdoor recreation for this and future generations can be a contributing member of CORA. Does this sound like one of your areas of interest?

If so, the first step is to become a CORA member. CORA's annual membership drive is now underway. The membership fee is \$15 per year.

CORA members contribute to our goals and objectives in many ways. Everyone can lend a hand in some way. Do you have a specific interest in: wildlife

habitat improvement, family cookouts, writing, keeping our public areas clean and litter free? Projects in these areas and many others are ongoing. Additional volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

For additional information about CORA or for membership information write CORA, P.O. Box 66, Jacksboro, Tennessee 37757. For information by phone call Ray Wilson at 562-1104, Harry Burden at 562-2171, or Lee Asbury at 562-5886.

C.O.R.A. Impressions

by Ernie Lester

When CORA was first formed I thought it was less than a good thing because CORA shut down a piece of land that my buddies and I had hunted and ridden on for years. They started charging \$50.00 per person to hunt and ride this same piece of land that was free for years. So we just went somewhere else to hunt and ride. About a year ago I met this guy at work. He told me about the many good things that CORA had done and the good things that CORA stands for. So I joined. I can now see that if this land is to stay as it once was as a multi-use area we are going to have to stick together. Since I have joined CORA I have had many good times with my new friends and my son. I have seen many deer, grouse, wild turkeys and many other things of beauty. I have covered many miles on my ATV. We must stick together to keep the land free to use.

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C.O.R.A.

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ROADS/TRAILS

by Jack C. Etheridge

A group of 8 or 10 four wheelers from Oliver Springs and South Clinton decided to go for a spin April 4, 1993. After eating a whopper of a breakfast at Perkins Restaurant, we headed out for a full day of fun—we had in mind to go around Sugar Limb Trail above Stinking Creek to camp Want A Buck and then back through Royal Blue and up by the reservoirs and beaver ponds. Everything was great until we hit Sugar Limb Trail. We had been riding this trail since 1988 and believed it to be one of the best in Royal Blue. It wasn't too bumpy with rocks and/or truck ruts, in fact about all that have traveled the trail until now were hiking or 4-wheeling. It was a favorite for the teenagers and ladies who ride with us. We were amazed at how it had been completely destroyed. As we went toward camp Want A Buck, it got worse and we got sicker—at first we thought someone might be logging or fixing to strip mine. When we finally got to Camp Want A Buck to eat we discussed the trail—no logging/no strip mining—we just couldn't understand who would come through there with a dozer. Muddy ruts so deep we had to help the young folks through. It was a constant jolting ride with some of the ladies stopping for a rest. It wasn't fun, it was a workout for the bike's and the people.

Then someone came up with the idea that T.W.R.A. had tried to build a road. I disagreed thinking surely they were more experienced than to try to build a road in the forest on the north side of a mountain in the middle of the winter.

I don't know how many days they spent on it, but they had not accomplished but one thing—made a mess. Sent silt down the mountain and literally ruined what was a good ride—I haven't been back as of this writing 6-1-93, so I don't know if it has been graveled—GRAVELED!! Ever try to ride a 4 wheeler on a gravel road behind someone? It is miserable. I guess if you didn't close your eyes and ride blind you would go blind. This brings me to date.

C.O.R.A. needs to talk with Stanley of T.W.R.A. and see if we can't appoint at least 5 people that ride 4 wheelers to go with them and influence them on which trails to close. While I can readily agree there don't need to be 3 or 4 trails going to the same place, I don't want to get behind a car or truck to do my riding. If those are their intentions, then the 4

wheeling is over. I can get a tag and run the highways. Is it their intention to run a dozer/grader over every road in Royal Blue? While I can understand needing some accessible roads (remember I said some), I cannot see the reasoning behind constantly wasting money grading and graveling roads—they have been there for 20 to 50 years without it. On closing think about this, why did they have to destroy Sugar Limb Trail and, providing they have an answer, think about how much less it would have cost in the summertime plus they could have completed it with no ruts, no rocks, no silt in 1/4 the time.

The Recipe Exchange

DEER NECK ROAST STEW

by Ernie Lester

1 5 lb. (approx.) neck roast
3 large potatoes, sliced
2 large onions, diced
2 carrots, diced
1 small can of peas
salt & pepper
1 clove garlic

Place all items in a pot, cover and cook for 6 hours on medium heat. Add water as needed.

Will feed 2-4 persons.
Great for supper!!

If you have a favorite wild game recipe you would like to share with our readers, send it in. Space permitting, we will publish it in one of the newsletters.

C.O.R.A. MINUTES

JAN '93

President Lee Asbury announced that a special meeting was scheduled with TWRA and anyone wishing to attend was welcomed.

A CORA NEWSLETTER was discussed. Frank LaGreca, agreed to accept the responsibility and reminded everyone that the success and quality of the NEWSLETTER depended upon their active participation. It was agreed that the first publication would be in April. That we would try to make it a quarterly publication but no less than semi-annual. Funding would be through advertisers, with only limited treasury input. Most of the remaining portion of the meeting was used to decide what needed to be discussed at the up-coming TWRA meeting.

JAN 6, 1993

A special CORA Board and TWRA meeting was held in the Campbell County Court House. TWRA representatives: Bob Ripley, Stan Stooksbury, Ron Saunders, Ken Arney. Gary Stooksbury, Gen. Mgr. of the LaFollette Utilities, also attended. Due to the important content of this meeting, the minutes are printed in their entirety.

FEB '93

Newsletter discussed. Articles turned in, advertising info established, cost per add will be set at the March meeting.

Minutes of the TWRA & CORA special meeting were read to the membership and discussed.

Hubert Roland announced that the WILD TURKEY FEDERATION will donate \$10,000 and another \$21,000 by TVA to establish turkey and wildlife habitat in the ROYAL BLUE area. Since cross-pollination was part of the program, some areas would be closed to hunting this season.

Ray Wilson suggested we have a turkey calling contest at our next meeting, unanimously approved.

President Asbury announced that some 7600 acres sold for \$100/acre almost adjacent to ROYAL BLUE. He asked that we give some thought as to how we might, as an organization, take hold of any future land purchase opportunity until the state could buy it.

MAR '93

ROYAL BLUE MANAGER Stan Stooksbury reported and discussed the following:

- Turkey poachers apprehended.
- Various Creek Minings investigated and disallowed.
- Land Acquisition projects discussed. Stinking & Jennings Creeks— tracts on priority list but land purchasing problems continue.
- Cone Creek was planted with 90 acres of corn and was well utilized by wildlife.
- Survey crew doing a great job marking boundaries, still a long way to go.
- He reported that some small equipment had been made available for road and trail maintenance.
- Old mines appear to be a problem due to their stream pollution possibilities.

Some, if not all, of the downstream portion of Straight Creek is DEAD!!! Some \$50,000 is allocated for clean-up. WTF funds will help. Also reluctantly commented, that CROSS BRANCH CREEK was SECOND worst polluted stream in the State, with a PH of 2.5. It was next on the list for clean up.

• Stan reported that \$16,000 of the WTF funds would be spent on TVA Right of Way areas for food plots and gates. WTF funds were also slated for mine site re-vegetation programs and the restocking of LBL birds to cross pollinate existing turkey flocks.

- Plans underway to replant the backside of the MASSENGIL mountain area.
- Plans underway to mine OLD COPPERS & ROYAL BLUE deep mine.
- Wood duck box nesting program in place.
- Treated sludge waste program under review. Determined that it works best on larger open tracts of land. Program severely hampered by rules and regulations.

Lee asked about family burial rights on ROYAL BLUE. Stan commented that there was no policy in affect but would look into it.

Stan commented that the \$82,000 worth of projects will greatly impact ROYAL BLUE, with the results to be seen

in the next few years. However, he had already been assured that no additional personnel would be hired in the area for some years and volunteers would always be greatly appreciated...long term not only immediate. He said, "Instant assistance could not always be utilized but planned assistance on specific programs or projects would be."

HUBERT ROLAND requested that a group of area knowledgeable CORA personnel volunteer to oversee the projects funded with WTF funds to insure that they are workable, and that the money is spent properly and in a timely fashion. Volunteering: Ray Wilson, Charles Vincent, Tom West, Ted Fields, Jim Shetterly & Rollen as group leader. Turkey calling contest held off until next meeting.

APRIL '93

President Asbury announced that CORA's election of officers and Board members will be held at the June meeting. A quorum of (100) members or proxy slip vote is needed to make the election valid. More to follow at the May meeting.

Hubert Roland suggested CORA file for tax exempt status. Lee expressed concern regarding the amount of paperwork & record keeping involved. Suggestion tabled for the time being.

The meeting noisily slipped into the turkey calling contest and got real serious.

Contestants: Fred Walker, Hubert Rollen, Jim Shetterly and Oscar Brock. When the "cluckin & gobblin" was over, Jim Shetterly was voted as the "hottest turkey" of all. Looks real good in his new CORA hat.

MAY '93

President Asbury discussed the CORA election proceedings and decided that some members would be asked to solicit 5 proxy votes for the next meeting in June to insure that we would have the required number of votes for a valid election.

He also mandated that anyone joining CORA within four months of our year

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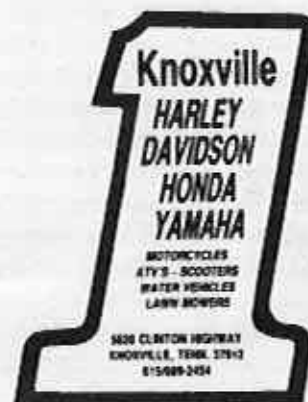
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Special C.O.R.A./T.W.R.A. Meeting

by Frank LaGreca, Secy.

TWRA Attendees:

Bob Ripley, Ron Saunders,
Stan Stooksbury, Ken Arney
Gary Stooksbury Gen. Mgr.
Lafollette Utilities

Lee Asbury opened the meeting, which was held in the Campbell County Court House. He discussed CORA's common ground of cooperation between the two organizations. He generalized the discussion & wishes of the CORA Board & attendant members at our previous meeting, which was to keep the roads maintained rather than greatly improved. Bob Ripley then recounted an earlier meeting with CORA & a meeting with his team & management. He reconfirmed that the area would be managed differently than the standard TWRA properties. He & Stan then discussed the work presently being done in the area. They said it was still rough and not greatly improved, in spite of their work. Ken Arney mentioned (2) tracts of land in the "Doughnut." Both are in the timber appraisal stage; proposals are expected for, "Beezer East" (3890 AC) & "Long Meyer Magee" (234AC) around early March.

The Lafollette Utility area with (1265AC) is also under consideration. The cost of Dam Improvement will determine the cost of the property. They have until July of '93 to bring it into compliance or get an extension. The first estimate is thought to be about 10 to 15 thousand dollars. Lee offered CORA's assistance in the procurement of the Utility property. Public Bid may be

required before it is allowed to be purchased.

Lee asked Stan Stooksbury to discuss his enforcement experiences on the property to date. He responded with:

- Fifty permit checks. Warnings issued.
- Three Marijuana cases.
- Unable to apprehend any Big Game violators.
- Only four-wheeler problems were hunters going off road to their stands.

In his opinion only a few are involved and a greater effort will be made to identify the offenders.

Conversation returned to roads. Stan promoted easier access, however, he was not in a position to say which roads should be improved and to what degree. Presently, they are trying to make them passable, since many are closing themselves.

Bob Ripley also supported some improved roads for the movement of machinery and Law Enforcement vehicles (in a hurry), and for the public, for whom this property was purchased. "They must have a way of getting around or through the property with a two-wheel drive vehicle with some degree of safety and assurance that he is not likely to get stuck on a main road."

Board member Fred Walker asked "how CORA members might help protect the property & wildlife?" Ripley responded, "by observing & reporting any illegal act to an Officer, is the best and only way." His concern in getting us involved in any kind of law enforcement activity would create major liability problems which neither he, nor the State needed.

Stan said he had observed a tire dumping area, but hasn't been able to apprehend anyone. He asked for any input which might be available. He also said that he is depending upon us and the community to help apprehend violators by way of "tips" called into his residence/office/& answering machine number, which is: 566-8557. He asked that we make that number as public as possible.

Lee expressed that in his opinion, volunteer assistance with the Officers would certainly be a lot of help to TWRA...to which Ripley replied, "only as eyes & ears, not direct involvement or apprehension."

The hiring of additional personnel at this time was out of the question, according to Ripley. Budget restraints precluded even the thought of it.

Ray Wilson addressed the dumping & garbage problem. In his opinion, the County & State, on bordering roads to the property, had much more responsibility than TWRA & should be held responsible for P/U & citing violators. He said he would discuss it further with the County & State personnel.

In summary:

- Area property used well this past season, no major problems which haven't already been addressed.
- Road improvements still uncertain. Plan to maintain existing roads.
- Lee again offered our bodily assistance to the Agency, public appropriation & direct political involvement if needed.

end would be considered paid up for the following year.

Motion approved to change our year. It will begin August 1 and end July 31.

Terry Lewis requested that all articles and ads for the NEWSLETTER be in by the June meeting in order to meet our July publication schedule.

Stan Stooksbury, Royal Blue area mgr., asked to speak to the group. The following notes were taken by Terry Lewis in the absence of Sec. Frank LaGrecia:

- He discussed timber cutting on Cove Creek. Clear cuts would only be 15 acres or so, numbering about 4 and were to benefit wildlife. The Forest Service would be in charge and the plans were in their possession.

He commented that miners and loggers were at odds but declined to comment further at this time.

- Motorcycles and 4 wheel riders are causing serious silting problems in the streams and are cutting timber to make trails. Hurricane Gap and Boyd's Branch were areas mentioned. A UT professor told area officials that the silting caused by the vehicles was affecting an endangered DARTER species.

- TWRA to install red signs closing the illegal trails. Stan assured them that he and his officers would be watching for any additional signs of cutting and take appropriate action.

- Stan was asked about any new road closing. He replied that he had turned his proposal on "road and trail" closings to another group for further review.

- Complaints received regarding riders interfering with hunters are increasing and will be addressed.

The possibility that the problem might stem from people outside the area was suggested. He commented that TWRA had signs to put up on and regulations for the area, which will help.

- Trail marking is a real problem. With so many trails in the area it's a huge spider web, they are doing the best they can.

- Lee Asbury asked if we might help police the area. Stan's response was, maybe CORA & TWRA might be able to work together in some form.

- When asked if CORA personnel had any authority to stop anyone committing an illegal act, his immediate re-

sponse was NO. The prudent thing to do is get all the facts possible and ID, and report it as soon as possible. Lee commented that CORA personnel were quite successful in gathering information on illegal trash dumpers and turning them into the authorities for prosecution.

- The manpower shortage is a serious problem and is seriously affecting his ability to accomplish much of what he needs to do. He equated his area with (2) and Catoosa with (12). Lee offered to call on higher TWRA authority and ask for additional manpower, since he also felt that it was a joke trying to run an area the size of ROYAL BLUE with (2) men. (notes do not indicate any response to Lee's offer)

- Turkey harvest was very poor, according to Stooksbury, only four reported kills.

- The National Guard has offered to help clean up the area with trucks, since they have been given authorization to continue using the area for training and practice.

- In conclusion, Stan offered to write quarterly articles in the NEWSLETTER describing the activities in ROYAL BLUE.

JUNE '93

TERRY LEWIS gave an in-depth report on the announced Royal Blue road closings in the BRADEN MOUNTAIN area. All of us who know this area agree that the closings proposed will severely restrict access into this area; therefore, Lee Asbury, Ray Wilson and Hubert Rollen will meet with a special TWRA task force on July 7, 1993 to discuss the prospective road closings.

JULY '93

TCL dues of \$100 was approved.

CORA membership dues of \$15 due AUG. 1, 1993.

Board Chairman Harry Burden announced that a report on the upcoming TWRA ROYAL BLUE road closings meeting will be available at the AUGUST meeting.

STAN STOOKSBURY, ROYAL BLUE AREA MANAGER, asked to speak in defense of their decision to close some of the roads. He believes there's a misunderstanding on the "road closure" program. That the suggested closures were not "cast in stone" and no definite decisions had been made. He said that

some roads had closed naturally, and would take a considerable amount of time and money to re-open probably best left closed.

Presently, all 4-wheel roads would be maintained. Short roads in all probability would be closed, if for not other reason than security precautions.

Tom Conner expressed concern that closing off every short road was contrary to CORA's original thinking of "passive resistance to the terrain," which would make it difficult for CORA to support the program. Stan responded that he would accept help in keeping some of these roads open, that it would require further discussion and planning.

He again commented that 4-wheelers continue to be the major cause of stream siltation. Once the problem starts...nature takes over via erosion. Mud and siltation continues to be the primary causes of pollution and the State is responsible to prevent and stop it, said Stan. He then added, much of the help will have to be natural, since there wasn't enough money available to physically do it. He also mentioned that the endangered DARTER was found in LOUSE CREEK, therefore, the CREEK is now considered "protected."

Coal mining is still a major problem, said Stooksbury. TVA has the rights and his job is to insure that what they do is right...before, during and before they leave. He mentioned that TWRA road crews might become available, but expressed concern about turning them loose in the area. They are trained and ordered to work under DMP (Dead Management Practices), which in some cases is over-kill on a road. Presently, he doesn't plan to use them.

In closing, he said, "What is needed is planned management. My concept of multiple use is the same as yours...all outdoor recreation. My job is to do what's right for the majority of users, which makes it difficult to satisfy everyone. I fear for the future, that's why it is so important to establish rules, regulations and guidelines. I understand your concern that you're being over-regulated but please give the programs a chance. If we find that it's not working, then we'll change it." Member Jack Ethridge commented, "In my opinion, TWRA will do what they believe is right, and when it's determined differently, it will be too late."



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

A Short Coon Hunt

by Jim Shetterly

At 5:00 p.m. meet at friend's house, drove to woods. The hunt starts 6:00 p.m. Dogs pick up trail at 6:30 p.m. Up one side down the other of a ridge and through creeks. Now at 8:00 p.m. on other side of ridge dogs tree in big hemlock. Can't find coon. At 8:25 p.m. start out again. Dogs pick up new trail at 8:45 p.m. Dogs stop barking 9:25 p.m. Decided to go back to truck for goodies and wait for dogs to return. At 10:05 p.m. dogs return to truck. At 10:30 hunt continues in other direction. At 10:55 p.m. dogs pick up trail down hill this time. 11:15 p.m. Hears dogs trail here we go again. At 11:25 p.m. get close to dogs, dogs leave tree. Barking bobcat I guess. At 11:30 p.m. can't hear dogs barking. At 11:55 p.m. dogs come back we all take 10 minute break. At 12:05 a.m. back up hill again. At 12:45 a.m. dogs picks up trail on other side of hill.

At 1:10 a.m. dogs tree. At 1:25 a.m. get to dogs at 1:35 a.m. see coon. Knock coon out of tree. Dogs and coon fight for ten minutes coon loses. Now after short rest 2:00 a.m. start for trucks with coon and leading dogs to truck. At 2:25 a.m. back at trucks and headed for house. At 3:10 a.m. stop at friend's house pose for pictures. Then the boys said next time we will go on a long hunt. 3:30 a.m. Home sweet Home.

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Special, continued from page 6

• He also emphasized the need for CORA to continue to communicate with Stan & the Agency & to maintain our attitude of cooperation & co-existence between CORA & TWRA.

Bob Ripley expressed his sincere appreciation to all CORA members. What we have done & what we stand for & could not see any reason for not continuing our relationship and ability to communicate when necessary.

Gary Stooksbury of the Utility Co., at this point, offered to use their equipment to plant food plots in the general area.

In closing, both Asbury & Ripley reaffirmed support between their respective organizations.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 4:45 p.m.

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