



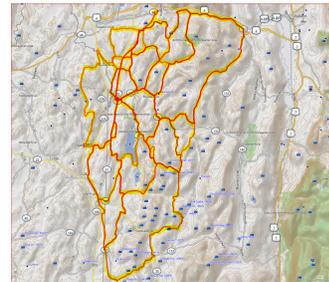
June 2016

Slate Valley Trails first year has been an exciting and busy one! We have undertaken multiple trail projects which are all nearing completion. As you read about our projects we hope it will excite and energize you to get out on these trails either by bike or on foot.

SVT Memberships fuel our growth, so [join today!](#)

Gravel Road Network (GRN)

Cue sheets for 16 cycling routes that start in Poultney and feature the area's network of gravel roads are now available on our website. The routes offer challenging hills and gnarly class 4 conditions. Maps for each ride are under development and will be added to our website as they become available. Thanks to **Gail and Chuck Helfer** and **Josh Duncan**, a Green Mountain College student (GMC), for their efforts on this project.



Gravel Ride Network

Tools and Training

We are now equipped to do trail work! SVT made its first purchase of trail building tools this spring thanks to a grant from the Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA).



Trail Building Clinic

In May, two SVT members, **Drew Bentley** and **Peter Kunz**, participated in a two-day VMBA sponsored **trail building clinic** held near Montpelier.

New Trails

Approximately 2 miles of hiking trails on private land is open in East Poultney! Parking for **Howe Hill** is available at the East Poultney Baptist Church. Check out our website for a description and trail map. Signage will be coming soon.



East Poultney

The three-mile multi-use **River and Rail Trail** in Poultney is nearly complete, thanks to the Green Mountain College Land Use Committee and approvals from a few private landowners. SVT is working with the Town of Poultney to finalize the route and add signage.

SVT is collaborating with the Town of Wells to create several miles of multi-use trails in the town's **Delaney Woods**. Trails have been laid out and volunteers will be needed this summer to build the trails.

Castleton University trails will soon be formally opened to the public, thanks to the Castleton Bridge Initiative trails committee. Led by **Mary Droge** and **Andy Vermilyea**, also SVT members, the committee received formal permissions from neighboring landowners. Work on signage is underway.

Several miles of **new single-track trails** on private land in Poultney are under construction – stay tuned for more news of the trails opening this fall!

Regional Trail Planning

Discussion is underway to complete two missing portions of the **D&H Rail Trail**, the 4 mile section from the Vermont border south to Middle Granville and the 2 mile section south from West Rupert to Salem, New York. By



SVT Board Meeting

completing these two sections, the rail trail will run continuously for 35 miles from Castleton, Vermont to Salem, New York. Spearheaded by Granville town representatives, SVT joined other local community groups and New York State Parks and Recreation representatives in a planning meeting to discuss how best to get this project done.

SVT will attend an upcoming planning session of the **Rutland Economic Development Corp.** The aim of the group is to work together with a variety of stakeholders to promote the region as a destination location for family and competitive mountain biking and trail riding.

Upcoming Events

The 3rd annual **Stone Valley 50 (SV50)** will be Saturday, September 17th! Both the 50 mile race and the 20 mile tour begin and end in Poultney.

[Register now](#) and start training!



SV50

In July, ten SVT members will participate in a **one-day trail building clinic** in Wells. After this VMBA sponsored clinic we will be prepared to lead our own local **volunteer work days** which will be announced soon. We look forward to your help on the trails! Tool donations are always welcome.

Stay informed about SVT and [become a member today!](#) Visit our website and follow us on Facebook.

Update compiled by Alexi Conine with photos by Drew Bentley, Chuck Helfer and Peter Kunz.

[Hike, Bike, Explore](#)

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